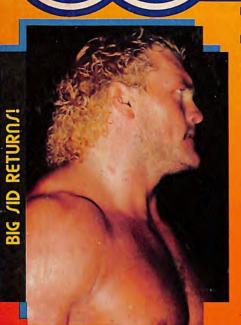
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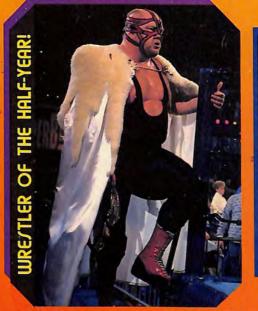


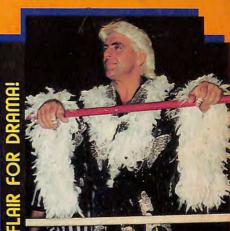
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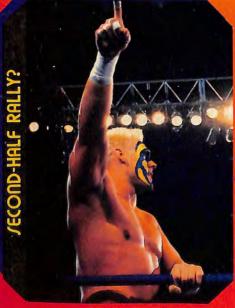
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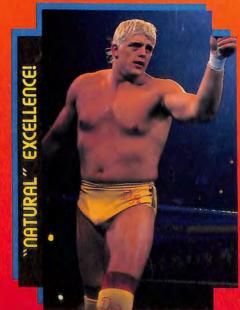




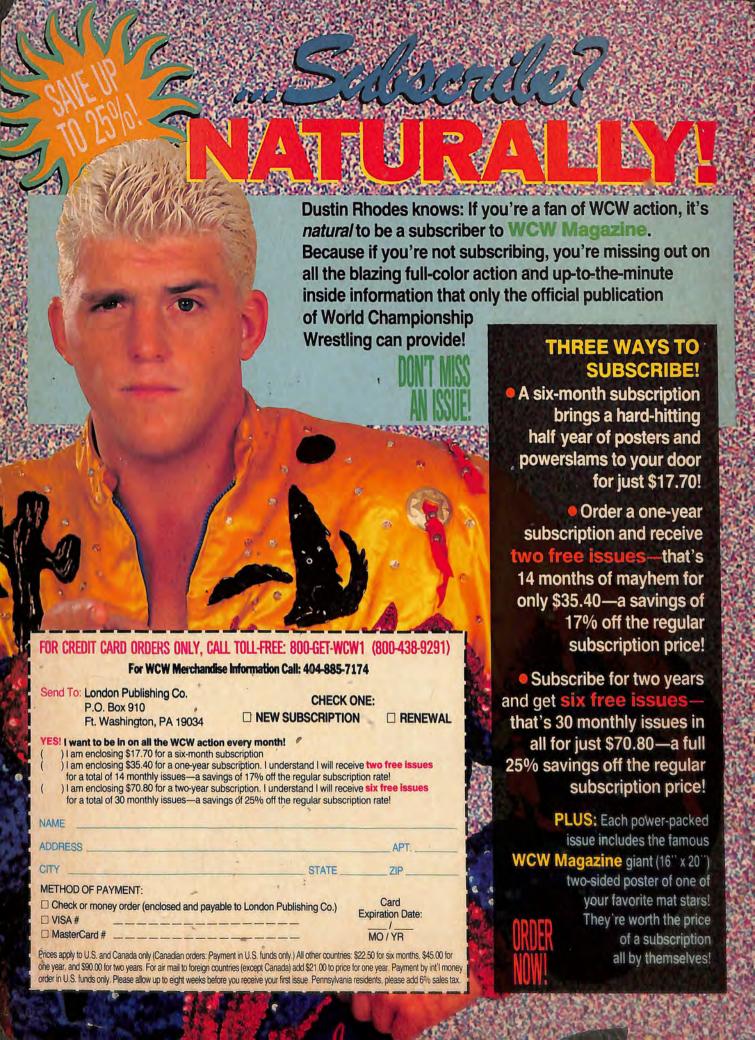




WCW MIDYEAR REPORT!









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PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED (ISSN: 1043-7576) is published monthly by London Publishing Co., 7002 West Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Second-class postage paid at Rockville Centre, NY, 11571 and additional post offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to "Pro Wrestling Illustrated," P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. Single copy price \$2.50 (\$2.95 in Canada, £1.95 in U.K.) Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (310) 572-7272. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Capital Distributing Company, 201 East 57th St., New York, NY 10022. International distribution (excluding U.K.) by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St, New York, NY 10010. U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB770E, England.

Printed in U.S.A.

NOVEMBER 1993

FEATURES

- WCW MIDYEAR REPORT
 The highs, the lows, the oddities from the first six months at World
 Championship Wrestling. Where did we grade your favorites?
- VIOLENCE UNCHAINED!
 WHY TERRY FUNK AND EDDIE GILBERT
 SHOULD NEVER WRESTLE AGAIN
 Their rivalry keeps getting bloodier and bloodier, as Philadelphia fans recently learned firsthand at an ECW card
- COMPELLED TO MAKE CHILDREN CRY—BUT WHY?

 A PSYCHOLOGIST ANALYZES DOINK THE CLOWN

 Dr. Sidney M. Basil offers some provocative theories as to how the WWF's rulebreaking joker(s) got that way
- FROZEN OUT OF THE WWF WORLD TITLE PICTURE:

 10 RULEBREAKERS WHO DESERVE A SHOT AT YOKOZUNA

 From Bam Bam Bigelow to Papa Shango, here are 10 men who could give the sumo star all he could handle—but will probably never get the chance
- PRESS CONFERENCE: HARLEY RACE
 The controversial manager talks about Big Van Vader, longtime rival Ric Flair, and a range of other topics

DEPARTMENTS

- BETWEEN FALLS
 Summit Talks; Four Fools; Memo To Tunney
- RINGSIDE with Bill Apter
 The latest happenings as of press time
- FROM THE DESK OF ... Stuart M. Saks
 Notice any changes?
- IN FOCUS with Craig Peters
 Predictions from across the pond
- WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW by Andy Rodriguez
 The worries, and fears, of life on the road
- THE STEEL CAGE by Chris Bernucca
 Lex Luger: American hero or publicity hound?
- OFF THE TOP ROPE with Eddie Ellner
 Mail to, and replies from, our controversial columnist
- 35 PWI CLOSE-UP: RICK & SCOTT STEINER
- A capsule profile of the champion brothers
- SCOUTING REPORTS
 Thumbnail sketches of five top mat stars
- ARENA REPORTS
- A comprehensive collection of match results from around the world
 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS
- The sport's most respected rankings
- Our readers' thoughts on NWA, Smoky Mountain, Global
- WRESTLING ENQUIRER
- Late-breaking news from the mat world
 PWI HOT SHOT

 Jeff Jarrett vs. Brian Christopher

between //s

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SUMMIT TALKS



Hulk Hogan and Sting forming an alliance? Interfederation battles? World title unification? The cover of our September 1993 issue featured the "Superstar Summit" that Sting and Hogan had after they appeared on a card together—for the first time—in Japan. Plenty of fans had opinions about wrestling's two most recognized stars getting together.

"I think it's pretty farfetched," wrote Andre Worth of Ardmore, Pennsylvania. "As good as both of those guys are, I don't see either one giving up the limelight and allowing the other to wrestle in the same federation. Sting knows he's WCW's main guy, and Hogan knows he's the man in the WWF. I'm sure they're content to leave things as they are."

"It was great that they got to meet each other and wrestle on the same card," wrote Marc Pecoraro of Fair Lawn, New Jersey. "Many fans hope someday they will actually wrestle each other or wrestle together in a tag team match."

One fan wanted no part of a Sting-

Hogan summit.

"Hulk Hogan and Sting? Please say it's not true," wrote Nancy Wolf of Las Cruces, New Mexico. "Same old same old. Let's get some new talent and forget those has-beens."

FOUR FOOLS

I recently watched Slamboree '93, the WCW pay-per-view event. I expected to see the original Four Horsemen—Ric Flair, Ole and Arn Anderson, and Tully Blanchard. Then I found out Tully wasn't coming. But they got a new Horseman.



What is Paul Roma is doing as a new member of the Four Horsemen? Reader Roy Lenhard can't understand why the former WWF tag teamer is in the group. He'd like to see him replaced.

That's fine. I could accept a new member, like Lex Luger, Barry Windham, or big Sid Vicious (all former Horsemen). Then the shock came. Paul Roma is the newest member of this elite group? Paul Roma does not belong in the same federation as Flair and the Andersons, never mind The Four Horsemen. I plead with these three great wrestlers: Kick Paul Roma out of the most elite fighting force in all of wrestling or be known as The Four Fools.

ROY LENHARD Shelton, CT

MEMO TO TUNNEY

I have some advice for WWF President Jack Tunney. I'm not able to see WWF telecasts every week, but I'm able to keep up with your fiasco of a federation through magazines. If I did watch every week, I think I would become sick to my

stomach.

First of all, Hulk Hogan is not a god. His head is nearly three times the size of his arms. That makes it about 72 inches thick. I'd say that's a pretty inflated ego. If you want to improve the image of your federation, you can start by getting rid of Hogan.

Second, the Doinks. I always thought of the



Despite the presence of the Doinks, reader Trevor Carpenter gives WWF President Jack Tunney high marks for bringing in several new stars. WWF as a circus, and these clowns only support that claim. You could probably get rid of them easier than you could Hogan. I'd rather sit back and let Crush destroy those thugs.

Tunney has, however, done a great job in getting some quality stars in Crush, Bret Hart, Giant Gonzales, The Undertaker, and Yokozuna. I'd also like to congratulate *PWI* for doing a great job. You're the best. Keep up the good work!

TREVOR CARPENTER Dublin, TX

WEASEL ALERT

Bobby Heenan had a good man, Terry Taylor, in his camp. Then he

slapped him. He got another good man, "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig. He slapped him, too. Now he has "Narcissist" Lex Luger. I hope I can be there to see him get slapped. "The Weasel" Heenan likes to be known as "The Brain," which shows that there are different types of brains. If he plays his cards right, he might someday work himself up to become a

humanoid, which is what he calls WWF fans.

ART BACKSTROM Midlothian, IL

SAME OLD SHENANIGANS

Does Bret Hart deserve respect? In the past few days my feelings have changed from a resounding yes to a big no. It's clear that Hart is a beneficiary of the Hogan-style shenanigans that are keeping him atop the WWF. Hart received a bye in the qualifying round of the "King Of The Ring" tournament, which he deserved. However, who does he wrestle first? Razor Ramon, the man who can't even beat the no-hopers.

Then he wrestles Mr. Perfect, but look carefully: Hart's shoulders were also on the mat when he pinned Curt Hennig. Finally, he meets Bam Bam Bigelow, who slaughters him, but he gets a second chance because of Luna Vachon's interference, and wins. I didn't see a referee running out to make the match continue when Hogan lost the WWF title because of a photographer's flash. It's obvious that Hogan deserved the second chance, not Hart. Now we are supposed to feel sorry for Hart for the bashing he received from Jerry Lawler?

DAVID GRIFFITHS Herts, England

WCW CIRCUS?

I am very upset! Over the past several weeks I tuned into the best



Where is Cactus Jack? Reader Joe Tisone doesn't know, and doesn't care. He'd simply like to see WCW stop imitating the WWF's circus-like atmosphere.

wrestling program on television, WCW Saturday Night. Well, to my dismay, I saw WWF quasi-wrestling. I checked to make sure that I had on the right channel. I did, but what I saw was Vince McMahon-like programming. If I wanted to watch something as patently ridiculous as the Big Van Vader-Sid Vicious retirement proposition and the search for Cactus Jack, I'd turn on the WWF. WCW is supposed to be better than this.

With stars like Ric Flair, Sting, (Continued on page 58)

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI



The cover of the November 1983 issue featured Harley Race, who, in an exclusive "Press Conference," proclaimed he was the best ever after having defeated Ric Flair to win a then-unprecedented seventh NWA title. Race went on to discuss his best-two-of-three falls victory in detail. The win came three weeks after the 10th anniversary of his first NWA title triumph.

The centerfold showcased "Rowdy" Roddy Piper. The native Scotsman had just recovered from ear damage suffered at the hands of U.S. champion Greg Valentine. Piper had begun teaming with former NWA World champion Ric Flair in an effort to destroy the stable of Sir Oliver Humperdink.

Elsewhere in the magazine: Fans voted Bruno Sammartino the greatest WWF World champion ever. "The Living Legend" garnered 66 percent of the vote, while Bob Backlund finished a distant second with 14 percent ... Columnist Liz Hunter conducted an interview with Ric Flair while Flair was showering in the locker room ... PWI revealed Paul Ellering's plot to brainwash young Arn Anderson against his family. Ole Anderson foiled the plot ... Craig Peters' "In Focus" contained an item about a petition signed by 7,000 fans urging Hulk Hogan to return from Japan to the AWA ... Veteran reporter Matt Brock looked at "Exotic" Adrian Street and was disgusted by his attitude, though impressed with the man's wrestling skills.

With Bill Apter

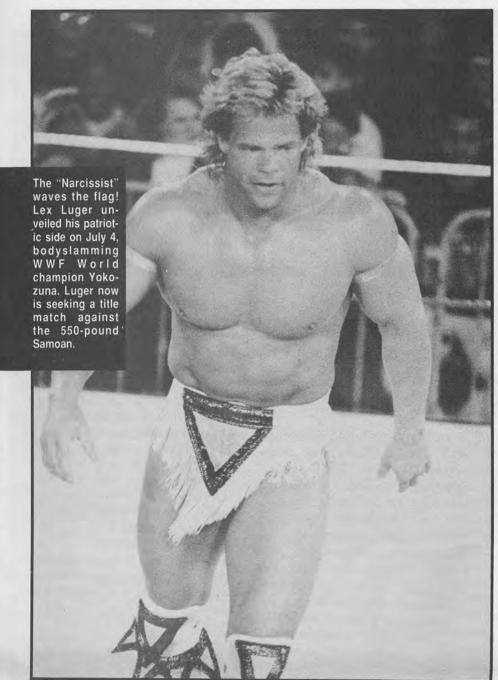
REMARKABLE INDEPENDENCE day it was. Lex Luger supplanted Hacksaw Duggan as the WWF's flag-waving patriot. Shortly after WWF World champion Yokozuna defeated Hulk Hogan for his second title at "King Of The Ring," the 550-pound Samoan and his manager, Mr. Fuji, issued a challenge to all

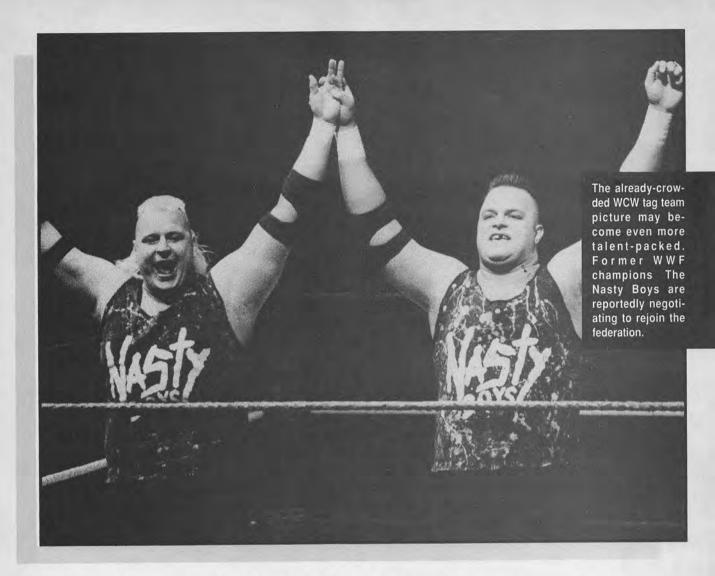
American professional athletes to try to bodyslam him.

Yokozuna and Fuji chose July 4 because they wanted to embarrass America on its birthday. They picked the U.S.S. Intrepid, an aircraft carrier docked in New York's Hudson River, as the site for their challenge. It appeared their plan had worked when a handful of football players, hockey players, and wrestlers tried and failed.

Enter Luger-in dramatic fashion. With Fuji and Yokozuna set to leave, the "Narcissist," sporting a red, white, and blue T-shirt, arrived by helicopter and told the sumo warrior what he thought of insults aimed at his country. After swaying Yokozuna with a blast from his "loaded" forearm, Luger lifted him to hip-level and slammed him to the mat. Fans aboard the ship loved it, though Fuji later said the slam didn't count since Luger had failed to lift the champ above his head. Fuji's tried his best to keep Luger from receiving a shot at his champion.

Shawn Michaels has drawn the ire of "Macho Man" Randy Savage. During sev-





eral recent Intercontinental title matches, Michaels' bodyguard, **Diesel**, interfered and saw his man win by countout. Things changed when "**Mr. Perfect**" Curt Hennig showed up and had the referee reverse the decision. Diesel or no Diesel, Michaels had better not start too many feuds at once if he doesn't want to become a two-time *former* I-C champ.

Speaking of former champs, The Rock 'n'
Roll Express has once again joined those
ranks. The Bruise Brothers made adviser
Jim Cornette a proud man when they
defeated Robert Gibson and Rick Morton
to capture the Smoky Mountain belts.

"I told everyone Gibson and Morton were through, didn't I?" said Cornette. "Not that they were much to begin with, but look how easy it was for The Bruise Brothers to take those straps. Life is so sweet."

At press time, the Brian Lee-Tammy

Fytch saga just kept getting stranger. Lee once laughed at Fytch's offer to manage him, saying something to the effect that if he wanted a woman around, he'd marry one, and Tammy wasn't his type.

Seems Lee can relate to dollar signs. With Tammy at his side he's been going all-out for the \$20,000 bounty on the head of **Tracey Smothers**. This after former fan favorite Lee rescued Smothers from a vicious **Kevin Sullivan-Tony Anthony** double-team, then followed his valiant save with his own brutal beating of Smothers. And they call Anthony a turncoat...

Did I hear someone say recently that there aren't enough good tag teams around anymore? As we went to press, a couple of duos were negotiating with WCW to enter the tag wars there: Thunder & Lightning, formerly of the IWF, and The Nasty Boys.

(Continued on page 52)

from the desk of... Stuart M. Saks

It was just a few months ago that I sat in this same chair, in front of this same desk, and wrote about some major changes that were about to take place in the lives of myself and several other people who work for Pro Wrestling Illustrated. At this hour, I sit in the same chair, at the same

desk, and tell you that those pieces of furniture are among the very few things that have not changed in my life since that last writing.

I have all but said goodbye to Long Island, New York, a place I have, until now, called home my entire life. Within weeks, I will have permanently relocated to the Fort Washington Ambler area of Pennsylvania, where the new London Publishing

New seems is the operative word in my life these days. New house, new friends, new staff, new office, Company is based.

It's a very strange time in the life of a man who new state. New York? No more. is not particularly fond of change. But you know what? The new Stu is developing a new attitude.

I sincerely hope that you feel that way, too. There Maybe change isn't so bad after all. have been some major shakeups in PWI and its sister publications over the past few months. Most of the changes have taken place within the graphic design of the magazines. The company is now equipped with a state of the art Macintosh computer design system and state-of-the-art computer design-

Our new art staff, led by Art Director Barbara Brady, is working very hard with the editors to ers to go along. bring the magazines a fresh, contemporary look



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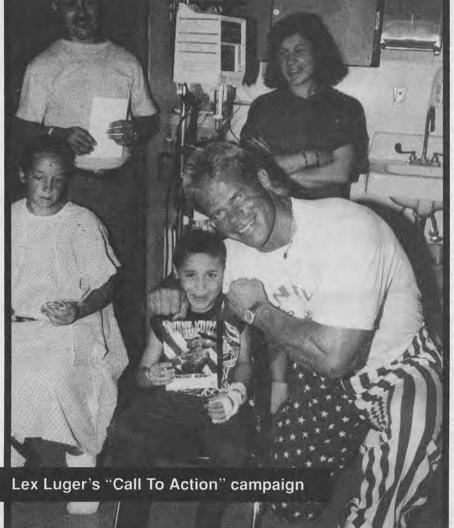
PREDICTIONS FROM ACROSS THE POND

While cleaning off my considerably messy desk the other day, I ran across a lengthy letter from Catherine Jacobs of Suffolk, England, who sent me several pages of predictions for what might happen in the WWF in 1993. I found the letter interesting for two reasons: Some of her predictions for the early part of the year came true, and some of her predictions for the latter part of the year are fascinating.

First, a few first-half predictions: Ric Flair and Curt Hennig will feud (they did); WWF stars will release another record (they did, in England); Bobby Heenan will start to broadcast his own program called "Brain Scan" (he did, sort of; it wasn't his own program, but was featured on WWF broadcasts, and was called "Brain Scan"); "Mr. Perfect" Hennig will win the Royal Rumble (okay, he was the seventh man eliminated, but

nobody's-ahem!-perfect).

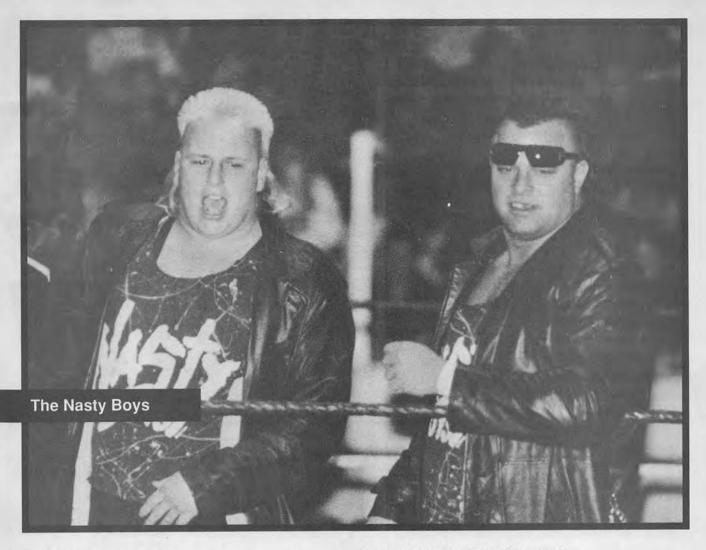
Now, a few of Catherine's predictions for the second half of the year: The Headshrinkers will eat Jimmy Hart ... Bobby Heenan will buy the WWF ... Repo Man will repossess Tatanka's feathers ... The Moondogs will return to the WWF ... The Moondogs' careers are finished when Marty Jannetty attacks them with a chain ... SummerSlam will be a flop ... Ric Flair and Bret Hart will go to another federation, one that cannot be mentioned by the WWF.



BUSCAPADE ESCAPADES

Boy, it sure is hard to be the cynic these days where Lex Luger is concerned. There's Luger traveling cross-country in a bus, meeting fans and passing out smiles and handshakes with his autographed photos. And there's Luger visiting a children's hospital, signing casts and posing for photos with sick kids. And there's Luger talking trash about Yokozuna, becoming the WWF's latest conduit of patriotism, following in the all-American footsteps of Sgt. Slaughter and Hacksaw Duggan.

Pardon me if I don't jump on



the bandwagon-er, bus.

You see, I still think there's plenty of "Narcissist" in Luger. His career has been a lengthy series of opportunistic ploys. Fan favorite has the title? Turn rulebreaker. Rulebreaker has the title? Turn fan favorite. The Four Horsemen are ruling the NWA? Join the group. Sting is the most popular wrestler in WCW? Become his friend.

As I watch the tapes of Luger traveling our nation's highways in his red, white, and blue bus, I'm dazzled by the images: Luger flexing in front of the Washington Monument, Luger glad-handing with thousands of fans, Luger signing more autographs than a campaigning politician. Indeed, Luger is no merry prankster of the '60s; this bus excursion has more in common with the Clinton-Gore campaign than it does with the hedonistic cross-country ramblings of Ken Kesey and company.

Still, I can't get the voice of Graham Chapman from an old Monty Python skit out of my mind: "I gave him my baby to kiss ... and he bit it!"

I fear Luger's patriotism is just another bit of opportunism. I hope I'm wrong.

A NASTY SITUATION IN WCW

As I type this, I have just finished a phone conversation with Brian Knobs of The Nasty Boys.

"I heard you're the editor of that scummy rag, WCW MAGAZINE, so I wanted to let you know first," Knobs growled. "Me and Sags, we're gonna bust out way into WCW and bust some heads and bust a move on those tag team title belts!"

After a few seconds of hacking and spitting (Bastion Booger has nothing on these guys!), Knobs continued.

"The tag team scene in WCW is the sorriest situation I've ever seen in my life," he barked. "Bagwell and Scorpio? They're dog meat! Anderson and Roma? Don't make us laugh! Sting and Davey Boy Smith? A couple of fan-pandering preity boys. Man, the teams that have infected WCW are exactly the kinds of pathetic pairs me and Sags like to kick butt on every chance we get. Once we get into WCW, look for us to snap up the tag team belts in record time. And after that, you can put us on the cover of your idiotic scandal sheet!"

With diplomatic praise like that, how could I ever refuse?

HE RECENT DEATH of former Los Angeles Dodger pitcher and broadcaster Don Drysdale in a hotel room in Montreal was particularly thought-provoking for those who spend a lot of time on the road, especially those who are involved with professional sports.

In the days following Drysdale's passing, a spate of news stories carried comments from athletes, commentators, and television technicians who spend many hours in hotels and airports. Being away from their families for long stretches of time plants in many of them the fear that they won't be there when their loved ones need them, or vice versa.

For wrestlers, this fear is more acute, because they are on the road all the time. In wrestling, there are no seasons.

"It's a terrific grind to be sure," says Arn Anderson. "There's the old story about not being able to remember what town you're in; well, that happens to me quite often. And when you're away from home so much, you think about how the folks'll get in touch with you if there's a problem. But you live with it, you get used to it. At least most guys do."

The stories are told frequently in locker rooms of men with an abundance of talent who quit the sport because they can't stand those demands of travel.

"I knew one guy, I won't mention his name because I don't want to embarrass him, who called home three, four times a day," Jeff Jarrett recalls. "He was always worried about something or other. I and a few other people tried to tell him to calm down, to not worry so much. Eventually it was just too much for him. He had to quit."

Jarrett himself was briefly sidelined in May due to minor injuries suffered in a truck accident while he and Eddie Marlin were returning from a card in Arkansas.

(Continued on page 56)

OGG CONTROLLED BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ



Rick Steamboat will be the first to admit that when he goes on the road, there's always a fear that he won't be coming home to wife Bonnie and son Ricky.

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coming CLEAN. After his patriotic act on the Fourth of July, many fans are hailing Lex Luger as the next American hero. As far as I'm concerned, though, he is figuratively nothing more than a drug addict who, for the umpteenth time, is claiming that he is clean and will never get high again.

Call me a cynic, but I can't trust Luger. Sure, he stopped WWF World champion Yokozuna from thoroughly embarrassing our country. Yeah, he bodyslammed the 550-pound Samoan sumo master, showing the rest of the federation that it can be done. And yes, he did all of this on our country's greatest holiday while wearing an outfit of red, white, and blue. Uncharacteristic behavior from a man who for the last two years has been wearing black.

Luger had been a rulebreaker since mid-1991, when he won the WCW World title in a tournament final over Barry Windham and turned his back on the fans who had supported him throughout his career. He has switched back and forth so many times, he is quickly approaching the stratosphere of repetitive attitude adjustment nor-

mally reserved for fellows like Windham and Eric Embry, who change locker rooms more often than some people change underwear. (Or Jerry Lawler, who can dress in two locker rooms at once.)

Luger's first venture into rulebreaking can be dismissed as satisfying one's personal curiosity. Every wrestler should compete as both a fan favorite and rulebreaker early in their career, so as to discover which mindset will be more beneficial.

His most memorable switch to rulebreaker occurred in 1989, when, seemingly unprovoked, he attacked fellow fan favorite Rick Steamboat. Apparently, he realized the error of his ways, because eight months later, he forfeited no less than a World title match against Ric Flair in order to save Sting from a terrible beating at the hands of The Four Horsemen. Wrestling fans, as forgiving and forgetful a lot as there is anywhere this side of the Vatican, welcomed back Luger with open

But with attitude should come conviction, and Luger has displayed none. His foray into rulebreaking seemed to provide no answers, only more questions. In 1991, increasingly frustrated at his inability to topple Flair and capture the coveted NWA World title, he struck a referee in anger, a strict unwritten taboo within the code of fan favorites.

Luger may be the only wrestler



After starting his changeable career as a rulebreaker, Luger turned fan favorite and took on men like "Nature Boy" Ric Flair. He later forfeited a World title match with Flair so he could rescue Sting from an attack by The Four Horsemen.



Luger made a sudden turn to rulebreaker in 1991, much to the dismay of opponents such as Rick Steiner. Now the "Narcissist" again is a fan favorite, this time with a patriotic twist. What gives?

in history to begin a title bout as a fan favorite contender and end it as a rulebreaking champion. He did so on July 14, 1991, in a cage match against Windham. Harley Race and Mr. Hughes arrived at ringside, but rather than supporting the rulebreaking Windham, they sided with Luger. For the first time in his career, Lex was a World champion; for the third time (or was it his fourth?), he was a rulebreaker.

This venture into rulebreaking was no curious folly. Luger now knew what he was getting into. Like a tourist in a remote tropical paradise, he obviously had liked something about his last visit and always intended to return someday.

This time around, Luger embraced rulebreaking as if it were Geena Davis. He immediately hired Race as his manager and Hughes as his body-guard to insulate himself from the forces of fan favoritism. He was the mercenary in a brutal attack orchestrated by The Dangerous Alliance upon Sting, the man he had once rescued from a similar attack. And he repeatedly defended his title via disqualification rather than pinfall.

Luger lost the World title to Sting in February of 1992 and immediately flew the coop, signing on with Vince McMahon's fledgling World Bodybuilding Federation. The WBF was an ideal situation for Luger, a longtime bodybuilder and partowner of a fitness center

in Atlanta. It afforded him the opportunity to begin a show-and-tell, with the topic being his own personal splendor.

But a motorcycle accident prevented him from ever competing in the short-lived WBF, and once Luger recovered, he found himself in McMahon's "other" federation. He returned to the ring earlier this year at the Royal Rumble, calling himself "Narcissist" Lex Luger.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines a narcissist as "one who exhibits excessive admiration of oneself." My edition is 10 years old, but I'm sure the 1993 printing carries Luger's picture.

He wore a satin cape, in the best Gorgeous George tradition. He demanded a full-length mirror in the ring prior to his matches, in order to admire his physique. Unfortunately, there was little to admire about Luger once the bell rang. He was stiff and rusty, overpowering preliminary opponents but usually falling short against the federation's top contenders. For every victory he posted over Bret Hart, the "Hitman" would beat him three times.

Which brings us back to Independence Day. Why would Luger, a self-absorbed egomaniac, suddenly decide that the collective state of mind of the American wrestling public was so important? Why, on a holiday weekend, would he go to the trouble of chartering a helicopter and risk ending his career? Why, after two years of cultivating a persona, would he suddenly shift gears and wrap himself in the flag?

The answer is simple. Luger, who hounds attention, pulled off a public relations coup. He made a grandstand play for the affection of the fans while positioning himself for a title shot at SummerSlam '93.

In 1992, a friend of mine was sent to jail for burglaries he committed in order to fuel a drug habit. I maintained contact with him through letters and was overjoyed when he was transferred to a work-release program that would allow him to re-acclimate himself with society. During his release, I whole-heartedly offered my friendship and support. Five weeks later, he was arrested for burglary again. He is still my friend, but my cynicism forces me to question his diligence.

My friend has no interest in coming clean, and neither does Luger. Both of them are only interested in what makes them feel good. My friend is addicted to drugs; Lex Luger is high on himself.



If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE

Box 956 Ft. Washington, PA 19034

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

THESE ARE STRANGE days,
my friends. That I would
consider the repellent mongoloids
who compose my audience as
friends is very strange. But not
nearly as strange as the behavior
exhibited by one Owen
(Discovered His) Hart.
In Memphis recently, Hart
defeated Papa Shango for the
USWA title, then committed an

of Jerry (King Rat) Lawler. Unprovoked! Imagine! Well, I suppose there was slight provocation if you consider Lawler coldcocked Hart's brother Bret (Used

unprovoked assault on the body

To Have) Hart a week earlier.

Still, considering Owen's career-long lethargy, it was quite a strange sight to behold. Few critics will own up to the fact that three short years ago it was Owen, and not Bret, who they touted as the Hart brother most likely to succeed. While I'm not predicting superstardom for Owen, anyone who bloodies Lawler and messes up his hair in his hometown gets his mug in my photo album.

Dear Eddie,

Is it true that the only reason Ric Flair lost the loser-leaves-WWF match against Curt Hennig was so he could return to WCW?

> RUDY MEDINA San Antonio, TX

Dear Rudy,

What you're asking, in effect, is did Flair throw the match so he could break his WWF contract and return to the WCW where a

more lucrative deal awaited. A simple query from a no-doubt simpleminded reader, but one that has vast and complex implications.

Answer this: If in order to change jobs for a much higher wage in a more comfortable environment all that was required of you was to slack off a bit in your current situation, who among you would not? That was the dilemma facing Ric Flair. Simple, right? Slack off, get pinned, and when you get to your new desk send flowers.

This, after all, is Ric Flair, who we are no time soon likely to confuse with Mother Teresa. How often has Flair disqualified himself to protect his title belt? Flair denied this vehemently, saying "in no way, shape, or form have I ever not given 100 percent in the ring."

And you know what? I believe him. Protecting your belt to defend it another day is an old, time-honored device that even the most "honorable" champions have resorted to. But Flair is a consummate professional. When honor is on the line, he could no sooner lose intentionally than he could grow a third eye.

The answer then, simple Rudy, is no.

Dear Eddie.

I'm sure Bob Backlund was a legend back in the old days when soda pop cost a nickel, but now it's the 1990s and there is no way Backlund can cut it in today's WWF. What are your feelings?

ANGEL QUINONES Joppa, MD



Give the once-moribund Owen Hart credit, Ellner says, for having the nerve to assault USWA star Jerry Lawler—on "The King's" own Memphis turf.

(Continued on page 50)

Fans throughout the wrestling world agree:

PROJECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF

"I got my
SuperBrawl results
and an analysis of
the card just days
after the event. I
couldn't have
been more
pleased!

_P.L., Atlanta

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If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next

winner

Actual questions

Which young WCW star is known as "The Natural"?

- 1) Steve Austin
- 2) Scotty the Body
- 3) Dustin Rhodes
- 4) Robert Redford

Who portrayed Thunderlips in the film Rocky III?

- 1) Hulk Hogan
- 2) Lou Albano
- 3) Jesse Ventura
- 4) Rick Martel

Which of the following wrestlers is "Ravishing"?

- 1) Ron Ritchie
- 2) Dusty Rhodes
- 3) Rick Steamboat
- 4) Rick Rude

True or False: Jesse Ventura was a member of the elite Navy Seals?

- 1) True
- 2) False

How did you do?

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Following up last month's WWF mid-year report.

PWI recaps a remarkable six months of great WCW action in this special section. It's a collector's item we

know you'll enjoy and cherish!

LAST MONTH IN PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, we presented our mid-year report for the WWF. Well, we've always said practice makes perfect, and if you thought that one was good, just wait 'til you read this-our WCW mid-year report.

A lot happened in WCW from January to June, and we couldn't wait until our annual year-end issue to recap these spectacular events. Who knows? By

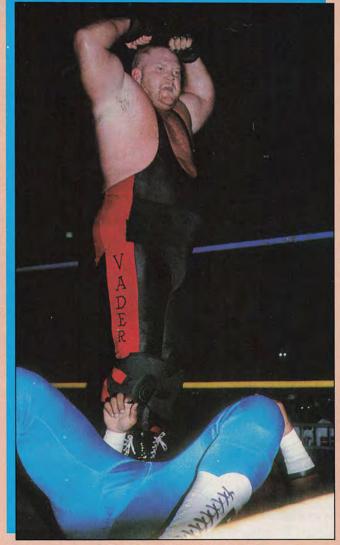
then, we might have forgotten some of them.

Midyear

In the first half of 1993, Big Van Vader regained, lost, and regained the World title. Ric Flair returned to the federation and reunited The Four Horsemen. Bill Watts resigned as executive vice president of wrestling operations. And Rick Rude stole the U.S. title from Dustin Rhodes.

WCW toured Japan and Europe, and Slamboree '93 brought back some of the greatest stars of yesteryear.

Yes, it was a great first half. And in this off-beat look at six incredible months, we bring it all back to you in entertaining, informative fashion, the PWI way. Fasten your seatbelts: The second half promises to be even better!



Big Van Vader vs. Ron Simmons





Maxx Payne vs. Johnny B. Badd

They get an "A": Big Van Vader recaptured the World title and, with a killer instinct unmatched by any wrestler anywhere, ran roughshod over his opponents ... Davey Boy Smith invaded WCW and took his best shot at Vader.

They get a "B": Barry Windham won the NWA title by defeating The Great Muta, but was too preoccupied with Ric Flair to achieve our version of perfection ... Dustin Rhodes won the U.S. title, but not by beating the former champion ... After losing the World title, Sting kept taking shots at Vader. only to fall short ... World tag team champions Steve Austin and Brian Pillman defended

their belts in dubious fashion ... Maxx Payne turned out to be a terror. Ask Johnny B. Badd.

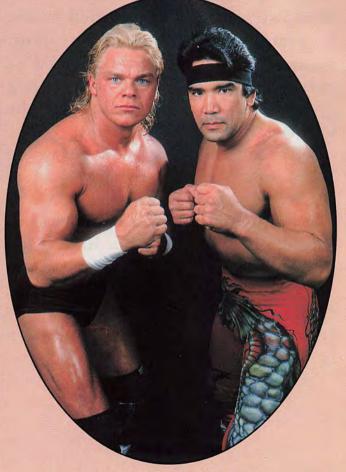
They get a "C": Mediocrity was defined by Van Hammer, who never seemed to gain a firm hold on a spot in the Top 10 ... Rick Rude never lost the U.S. title in the ring, but lost his temper on too many occasions ... Arn Anderson came back from an injury, but didn't do much of anything except back up Flair ... 2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Alexander Bagwell are on their way, albeit more collectively than individually ... Johnny B. Badd was fooled by Payne and paid the price.

He gets a "D": While Ron Simmons remained

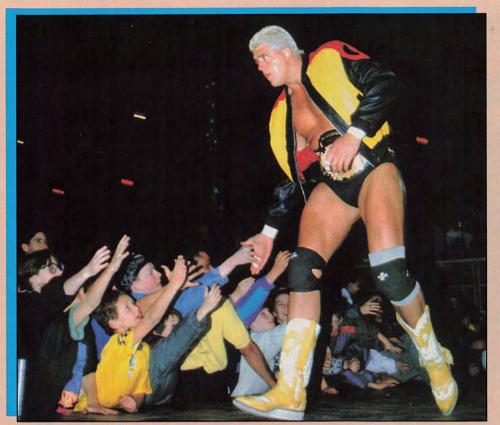
in the WCW Top 10, he slipped further away from the World title. He rebounded from two months on the sidelines after shoulder surgery, but was ineffective in May and June.

He gets an "F": Tom Zenk admirably came to Badd's rescue, but could not save himself from a terrible first half.

They get an "in-complete": Ric Flair, Paul Roma, and Lord Steven Regal just weren't around long enough ... Rick Steamboat and Shane Douglas were tag team contenders early in the year, but "The Dragon" turned solo in the spring when Douglas left WCW.



Shane Douglas & Rick Steamboat



Dustin Rhodes

GIVE 'EM AN INCH, THEY TAKE A FOOT

WCW held a tournament to choose a top contender to U.S. heavyweight champion Rick Rude. But when Rude was sidelined with a herniated disk and subsequently stripped of the belt, the tourney final turned into a title bout between Dustin Rhodes and Rick Steamboat. Rhodes won on January 11 for his first U.S. title.

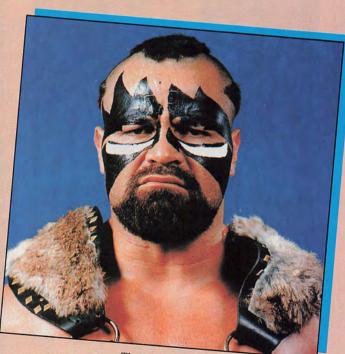
THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL A ROUND-ROBIN

At a TV taping on January 5 in Gainesville, Georgia, Big Van Vader, Paul Orndorff, Cactus Jack, and The Barbarian each wrestled at least three times, in singles and tag teams, against each other. Barbarian had the toughest night, losing three times and battling to a double-disqualification once.



REVENGE IS SWEET

Cactus Jack, the notorious madman from Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, gained revenge against Paul Orndorff and Big Van Vader when he broke into the Thundercage and helped out Sting and Dustin Rhodes at Clash of the Champions XXII. Jack came prepared; he used a pair of boltcutters to cut away the lock on the cage door.



The Barbarian

WCW Midyear Report

Jim Cornette

MAYBE THEY FOUND OUT WHAT THOSE HOLES IN THE BURGERS ARE FOR

Big Van Vader defeated Sting in a "White Castle Of Fear" non-title strap match at SuperBrawl III on February 21. The loser had to eat six White Castle hamburgers and three vanilla shakes...only joking.

YOU AGAIN? GET OUT!

Then WCW Executive V.P. Bill Watts wasn't too happy when manager Jim Cornette briefly returned to the federation

with The Heavenly Bodies, Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton. They interrupted an interview with Smoky Mountain Wrestling tag champions The Rock 'n' Roll Express and engaged in an impromptu match. Said Watts of Cornette: "Nobody invited him. Nobody wanted him here. If we wanted him, we would've sent him a bus ticket."

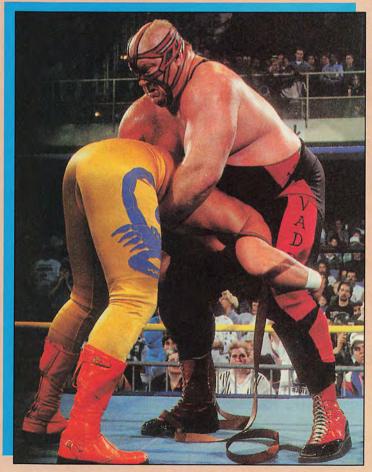






COWBOY RIDES INTO THE SUNSET

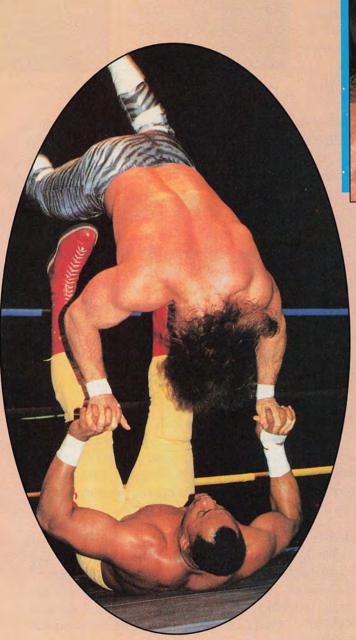
Few tears were shed when Watts departed WCW in mid-February. Based on the excitement of Watts' UWF in the mid-'80s, there was tremendous excitement over his hiring in WCW. But Watts proved that he had lost step with wrestling in the '90s by immediately banning all moves that originate from the top rope. Though he eventually rescinded the rule, his reputation had suffered irreparable damage.



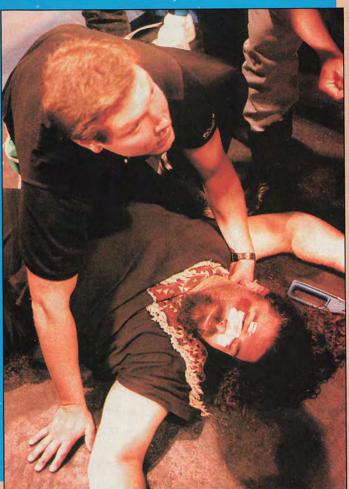
Sting vs. Big Van Vader

..."A VERY LUCKY MAN"

In the most frightening incident thus far this year, Cactus Jack was hospitalized with a severe concussion and suffered from periodic spells of amnesia after Vader power-bombed him onto a concrete floor. "He's a very lucky man," said Mike Weber, director of WCW information services. "Jack was inches away from being paralyzed."



2 Cold Scorpio vs. Chris Benoit



Cactus Jack after power bomb

WHO NEEDS A REFEREE? GET AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER!

Much to our delight, WCW wasted no time scheduling a series of matches between high-flying newcomers 2 Cold Scorpio and Chris Benoit. These dazzling aerial experts thrilled fans everywhere, but Scorpio was the one on his way to stardom.

COMING UP NEXT ON THE INTERNATIONAL HOUR...

When Davey Boy Smith announced that he was coming to WCW, he did so at the CNN building in London, England. Signing the "British Bulldog," who, along with Bret Hart, sold out Wembley Stadium for the WWF at SummerSlam '92, was a major WCW coup.



ORIGINAL OR EXTRA CRISPY, MR. JUSTICE?

Sid Vicious, the 6'8", 318-pound muscleman from West Memphis, Arkansas, hoped to deep-fry his opponents when he returned to WCW and abandoned the "Sid Justice" moniker he had used in the WWF. Vicious was joined by manager Col. Robert Parker, who bore a striking resemblance to Kentucky Fried Chicken's late Col. Harland Sanders.

AT LAST, THEY RIDE AGAIN! (BUT, ROMA?)

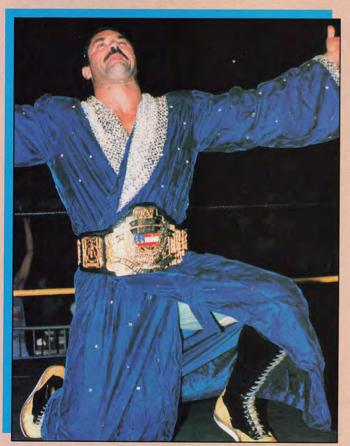
Finally, after months of waiting, The Four Horsemen reunited at Slamboree '93 on May 23. The original Horsemen of Flair, Ole Anderson, and Arn Anderson were joined by ex-WWF tag team competitor Paul Roma.



Col. Robert Parker & Sid Vicious

SPEAKING OF SLAMBOREE...

WCW brought together the old and new in a spectacular weekend of wrestling, Slamboree '93, capped by a live pay-per-view card. Lou Thesz, Verne Gagne, Mr. Wrestling II, and the late Eddie Graham were inducted into the Hall of Fame, and Nick Bockwinkel battled Dory Funk Jr. to a 15-minute draw in a match that should have happened 20 years ago. Nevertheless, everyone had a great time!



Rick Rude



THAT'S TAKING THE BELT BY THE HORNS

Rick Rude, frustrated by his inability to regain the U.S. title from Dustin Rhodes, stole the belt. And WCW, in an incredible decision that defied all logic, declared the title held up after they battled to a match in which the two wrestlers were in a double-pin position and lifted their shoulders before the three-count. We still don't understand the reasoning!

LOOKS LIKE A BEEFEATER TO US!

Lord Steven Regal made his long-awaited U.S. debut, but before long fans were ready to send him back where he came from. Regal claims to be a descendant of William the Conqueror. We think not.

BADD CAN BE GOOD. IT CAN ALSO BE DUMB

We don't condone the actions of Maxx Payne, who blinded Johnny B. Badd with his own "Badd blaster" at Clash of the Champions XXIII. Still, it wasn't too bright of Badd to confront a man holding a dangerous weapon ... especially when Badd came out unarmed. Stupid.

1994 HEADLINE: TIM ALLEN WINS WCW BELT!

Cactus Jack used a shovel on Paul Orndorff during their falls-count-anywhere match at SuperBrawl III. It was a no-disqualification match, so the combatants were allowed to bring anything they wanted to the ring. Jack brought his toolshed.

A FLAIR FOR THE GOAD

Ric Flair returned to WCW in mid-February, but taunted us for several months before finally returning to the ring at Clash of the Champions XXIII. He told the women of Atlanta, "There's not one of you who can be first, but any one of you can be next."

"I'M NEXT! I'M NEXT!"

Beautiful, busty, blonde (did we miss anything?) Missy Hyatt took Flair's boasts as an invitation. Disguised as a journalist, she tried to interview Flair in an obvious attempt to be his next manager or, better yet, girlfriend. Slick Ric wisely resisted.



THIS WATTS DIDN'T FARE TOO WELL, EITHER

Erik Watts reached the final of the tournament for the vacant WCW TV title, only to lose a tough match to Paul Orndorff. Said Watts: "It's disappointing to come this far and fall short. But I'm proud of my effort."



Cactus Jack vs. Paul Orndorff

GREAT TRIP—LOST MY BELT IN LONDON, FOUND IT IN DUBLIN

Big Van Vader lost the WCW World title to Sting on March 11 in London, but regained it six days later in Dublin, Ireland. Upon returning home, Sting accused manager Harley Race of interfering in the second match. "When you wrestle Vader, you're also wrestling Race," Sting said. "I'm just proud that I beat him fair and square. He can't say the same thing about me."







FINALLY, A 212 AREA CODE

The WWF's four-decade hold on Manhattan was broken April 14 when WCW made its initial appearance at Madison Square Garden's Paramount. In the main event, Sting defeated Vader and Barry Windham pinned Rick Steamboat. "For years it's been closed, but why shouldn't any organization promote in there?" said New York State Athletic Commission Chairman Randy Gordon, a former PWI associate editor.

CHECKING OUT...

Jim Ross Nikita Koloff Rick & Scott Steiner Shane Douglas Mr. Hughes

TAG TEAM OF THE HALF-YEAR

Brian Pillman & Steve Austin

MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

MANAGER OF THE HALF-YEAR Harley Race

Big Van Vader



Mr. Hughes

...AND COMING BACK

Ric Flair & The Four Horsemen Sid Vicious Scott Norton

A LIST OF THE FOUR BEST LIVE TV CARDS SO FAR IN 1993

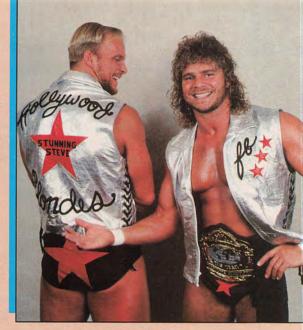
- 1. Slamboree '93
- 2. SuperBrawl III
- 3. Clash of the Champions XXII
- 4. Clash of the Champions XXIII

WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

Big Van Vader

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

Johnny B. Badd



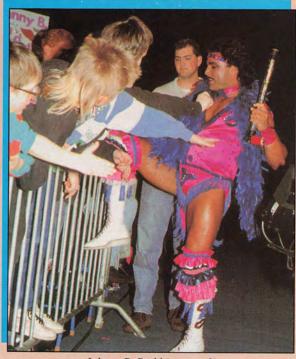
Steve Austin & Brian Pillman

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

Cactus Jack

AND, FINALLY, FIVE PREDICTIONS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1993

- 1. Sid Vicious and Big Van Vader will feud
- 2. The Four Horsemen will become rulebreakers again
- 3. Vicious will win the WCW World title
- 4. Rick Rude will regain the U.S. title—for real
- 5. Cactus Jack will kiss Missy Hyatt on national TV



Johnny B. Badd (pre-mask)



Why Eddie Gilbert And Terry Funk Should Never Wrestle Again

Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

When Funk and Gilbert
battle, much blood,
gore, and violence is
sure to follow. But their
latest encounter was so
horrifying that many
concerned people are
beginning to wonder
if it's time to end this
epic feud

By Andy Rodriguez

Paul E. Dangerously was furious when he heard that a member of his Dangerous Alliance, Eddie Gilbert, would be taking on arch-rival Terry Funk in what was billed as a "Texas chain massacre" match.

"Ridiculous! Outrageous!" cried the outspoken manager. "What was Eddie thinking when he agreed to that one? Or was he thinking at all? Funk is a kook. He's unstable. You can't trust him! Anything can happen! Arggggh!"

Gilbert had a much calmer view of his upcoming encounter.

"Paul is just being protective," he offered. "But this is something that me and Funk have to settle. Maybe it is too extreme, but when it's over, we're all going to find out that it was worth it."

Gilbert and Funk were scheduled to fight it out on an ECW card in Philadelphia over the title "King Of Philly." That distinction, though it may seem important, was not the main reason they were fighting. Both had far better reasons—and that's what scared Dangerously.

Their war has been going on for





Gilbert once said he doubted he could ever be as crazy as Funk, "but would die trying." Perhaps even at the hands of his arch-rival.

years. At venues across America, they have attempted to ruin each other's careers. Both are best known as rulebreakers, but there is no feeling of kinship because of that fact.

At one time, Gilbert idolized Funk, even sporting an "I'm A Funker" T-shirt. He wanted to be as reckless a rulebreaker as the wily Texan, though he often doubted whether he could be.

"I don't know if I'll ever be as crazy as Funk," he once confided to a friend, "but I'll die trying."

Over the past several years, Gilbert has indeed proved himself to be as dan-

gerous and unpredictable as his idol. For Funk's sake, Gilbert learned too well, turning his own tactics against him.

Add to the mix for this match Funk's desire to destroy the rest of The Dangerous Alliance.

"When I see a guy like Dangerously running around acting like he's the most powerful guy in this sport," said Funk, "I get sick. It's enough that he's allowed to be a manager without lording it over every darned thing. You have people like Jimmy Snuka and Don Muraco mixed up with him and it's a darned shame. Of course, it's Gilbert I'm most concerned about. If I take him out, the rest of that Alliance will crumble. They'll start wonder if being with Dangerously is in their best interests."

Talk about "best interests" was quickly forgotten by the night of the match. Each seemed focused on handing his rival as much punishment as possible.

"Tonight I'm gonna walk out of here the King of Philly," said Gilbert, "but there's more to it. I want Funk to remember this as the night he decided to retire. I want him to wake up tomorrow morning and feel every bone in his body screaming at him. And I want him to realize that Eddie Gilbert is the toughest opponent he has ever had or will ever have!"

"I prefer not to say too much right before the match." offered

"I prefer not to say too much right before the match," offered Funk. "When we get in the ring, you'll hear and see all you need to."

Dangerously accompanied Gilbert to the ring, which was somewhat of a surprise. It had been rumored that Gilbert would appear alone, in order to show Funk how serious he was about this encounter. Funk acknowledged the manager's presence with a sneer.

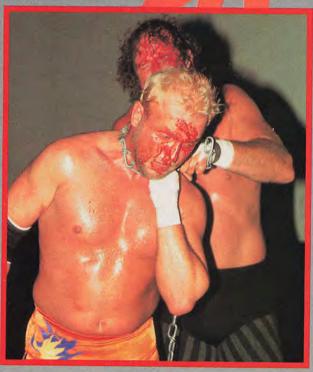
While the match lasted only 10 minutes, the 600 seconds were packed with intensity, brutality, and blood—always blood. The advantage switched back and forth, as

both combatants used the chain to open up nasty cuts on each other. Although Funk and Gilbert are fine technical wrestlers, they put those skills aside.

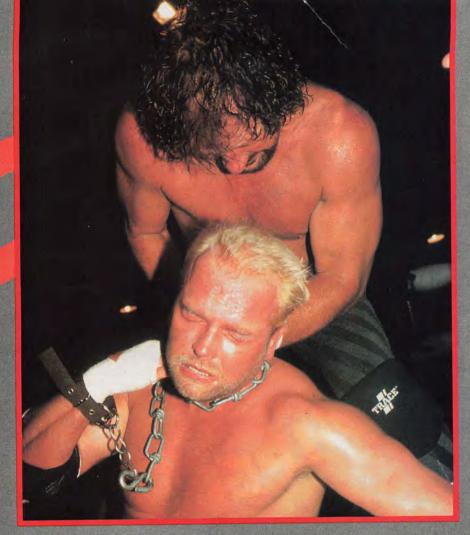
Eventually, Funk gained control. He had dragged Gilbert to three turnbuckles and was about to touch the fourth when Dangerously distracted referee Kevin Christopher. That caused the official to miss seeing Funk take Gilbert to the last turnbuckle, which would have clinched the contest. Christopher instead ordered the match to continue.

Gilbert then piledrived Funk onto a chair, touched all four corners, and thus captured the "King Of

Philly" crown. He left the arena before ECW Commissioner Tod Gordon announced he had discovered that referee Christopher was



Funk wraps the chain around Gilbert's neck. Funk touched all four corners and would have won the match if the referee hadn't been distracted by rival manager Paul E. Dangerously.



Though Gilbert frequently suffered at the hands of his foe (left), the wily Texan Funk lost a great deal of blood (above) and the match. ECW Commissioner Tod Gordon reversed the decision, however, when he discovered Gilbert had received outside help from an unlikely source.

actually Freddie Gilbert—Eddie's long-lost and heretofore unknown brother. As a result, the commissioner declared the crownless Funk the *real* king.

"Obviously," said Gordon, "this Freddie Gilbert guy was in cahoots with Gilbert and Dangerously. I apologize to Funk and to our fans. There's a lot more investigating to be done."

It all meant little to Funk. The referee and the crown were merely distractions from his real business.

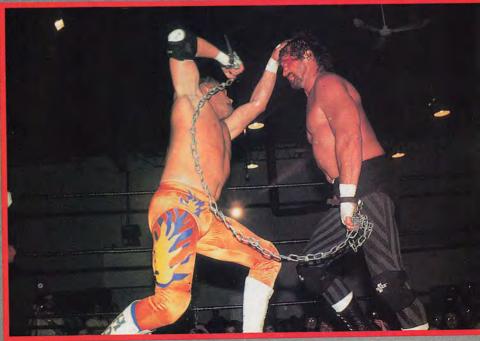
"Put us in a cage. Put us on the street. Just let us settle it," he sighed. "I don't care how bloody or how awful it gets. From here on out, I'm dedicating myself to making Gilbert miserable!"

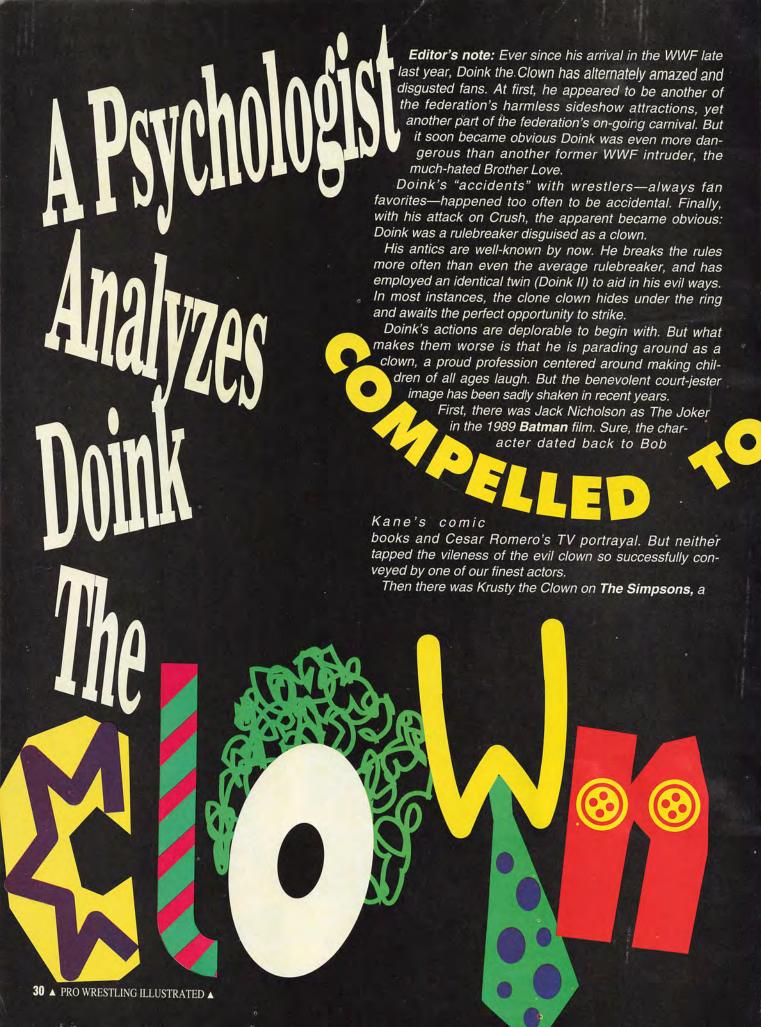
"Bring him on!" Gilbert coun-

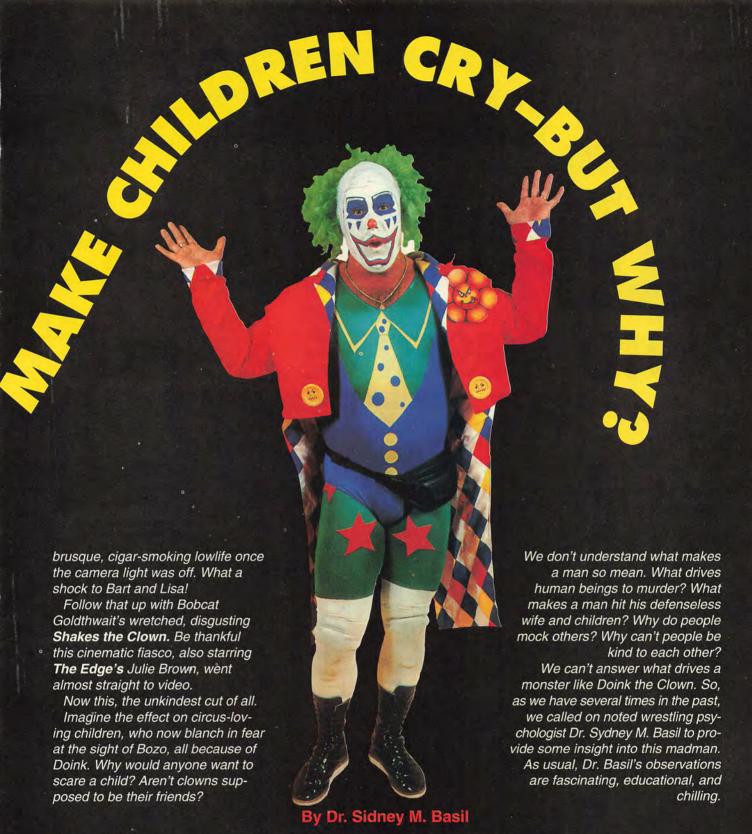
Both Gilbert and Funk have vowed to continue—and intensify—their feud. However, how much further can they go before one or both wrestlers suffer irreparable damage?

tered. "I'll take him anytime, anyplace. I don't care how hard Paul E. objects. Maybe it's fallen to me to put the old man on the shelf permanently. Good! I welcome the opportunity!" What this all means is that almost surely, each Funk-Gilbert encounter will be bloodier, more brutal, more violent than the last—and that's frightening to contemplate.

For the good of the sport, the Funk-Gilbert feud has to end. Now.







T IS NOT a doctor's job to take sides. Our enemy is evil, not the men who perpetrate evil, because there is a reason for all of the good and bad things that happen in the world. In almost all circumstances, a psychological problem can be traced back to the patient's childhood. I believe this is the case with Doink the Clown.

I will point out here that I have never sat down and interviewed Doink in a proper doctor-patient relationship. My observations were made from afar, with careful examination of the admittedly skimpy facts available about the man's background.

From these studies, I have come to this some-

Frozen Out Of The WWF World Title Picture



RULEBREAKERS

WHO DESERVE A SHOT

Just because Yokozuna is a rulebreaker doesn't mean he can't defend his WWF World title against those of a similar mindset. There's plenty of competition right in his own locker room, and we've put together a list of the 10 best!



E ALL KNOW how the WWF feels about pitting like-minded wrestlers against each other. It has happened just twice in major matches over the last year, both times involving fan favorites. Davey Boy Smith defeated Bret Hart for the Intercontinental title at SummerSlam '92, while Randy Savage and The Ultimate Warrior battled to a double-disqualification on the same card.

Promoters and matchmakers doubt fans would be interested in a match between rulebreakers, but we'd like to think otherwise. Given that WWF World champion Yokozuna is a rulebreaker who has manhandled most of the fan favorites he has faced, we have come up with an alphabetical list of 10 rulebreakers we think could give the sumo master a run for his money. All of them have some level of intrigue and would provide a change of pace from normal WWF fare.



Bam Bam Bigelow's extensive Japanese experience might help him discern Mr. Fuji's tactics. Bigelow also has the requisite size and agility to defeat Yokozuna.

clear advantage over the lumbering champion. Bigelow held the IWGP tag team title with Big Van Vader in Japan, and his familiarity with the 404-pound Vader could give him some insight how to exploit Yokozuna's few weaknesses. This would be an excellent match.

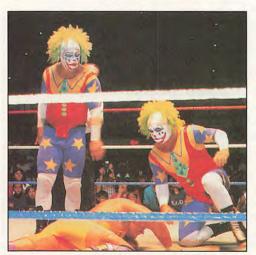
Adam Bomb. This WWF newcomer has been impressive in his first handful of matches, which comes as no surprise to those who followed him as The Nightstalker in Smoky Mountain Wrestling. One might wonder why a neophyte like Bomb should get a shot at the Samoan. Why not? Since The Kid's stunning upset of Razor Ramon, we know that on any given night, anyone can win—or lose.



Bam Bigelow. He is among the most deserving contenders for a shot at Yokozuna. At 368 pounds, Bigelow matches the sumo star's physical stature as well as anyone in the WWF. He also has agility rarely seen in wrestlers that size, a

A match between Yokozuna and Adam Bomb would be intriguing—as would the battle of wits between devious managers Fuji and Johnny Polo.

Ted DiBiase. The "Million-Dollar Man" is a stellar singles competitor. He advanced to the finals of the WWF World title tournament in 1988 before losing to Randy Savage. He has also given Hulk Hogan fits over the years, a feat few rulebreakers can claim. DiBiase, a superb technician who likes to brawl as well, also has the "Million-Dollar Dream" sleeperhold, which could be his most effective weapon against the Samoan. He would have to discover a way to weaken Yokozuna before applying it, however.



Two Doinks have shown they're more than enough to defeat Crush. But how many would be needed to beat Yokozuna?

We World title tournage. He has also given allebreakers can claim. The could be his most build have to discover a nowever.

Ted DiBiase's singles ability can't be overlooked. His technical and brawling skills could give the champion all he could handle.

Doink the Clown. The editors of *PWI* were in major disagreement on this selection. Many believed the clown and his clone have made a mockery of the sport. A smaller group thought Doink has exhibited enough skills and guile to merit a championship match. Even both clowns in full force might not have enough to take down Yokozuna.

Giant Gonzales. It's only natural to consider him a possible title threat. The sumo master is the heaviest wrestler in the WWF; Gonzales is the tallest, and, at 435 pounds, the only foe whose weight is within 100 pounds of the champion. However, Gonzales has been a major disappointment since his WWF debut in January. He should be given one title shot, a put-up-or-shut-up proposition. Perhaps the thought of his entire career riding on one match will motivate this underachieving behemoth to come up with the performance someone his size should be capable of.

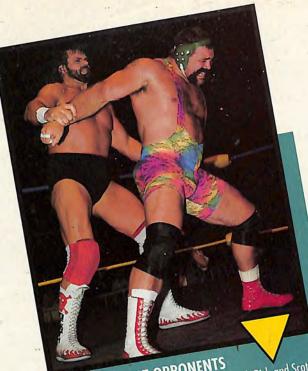


Perhaps Mr. Hughes isn't sufficiently experienced to take on the champion, but he has the necessary girth and certainly has the intensity.

Giant Gonzales has the size and weight to challenge Yokozuna. His ridiculous bodysuit might also disrupt the champ's concentration.

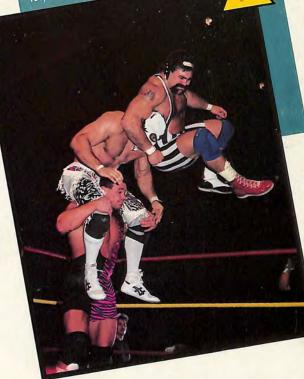


Mr. Hughes. The former bodyguard for Lex Luger in WCW has compiled an impressive won-loss record since entering the WWF in March. He has joined forces with Harvey Wippleman and Gonzales in their seek-and-destroy mission against The Undertaker, so we know Hughes is not afraid of a challenge. At well over 300 pounds, he also has the girth that could give Yokozuna problems he wouldn't face against most other wrestlers. While we're skeptical Hughes could beat Yokozuna, he does deserve an opportunity.



TOUGHEST OPPONENTS Terry Gordy & Steve Williams. Although Rick and Scott held their own against them, the American invaders from Japan achieved their goal by beating the brothers for the WCW World tag team title. Gordy and Williams were intent on demolishing the Steiners and proving their world dominance. And they did so in shocking fashion.

FAVORITE MANEUVER Flying Bulldog Headlock, Individually, Rick likes the "Steinerline" clothesline, while Scott is renowned for his "Frankensteiner" suplex. But their best—and most colorful— joint move is the flying buildog headlock, where Scott hoists an opponent on shoulders as Rick awaits, perched on the top rope. Rick then headlocks the hapless foe, crashing him into the mat.



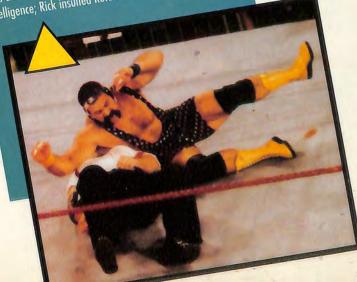


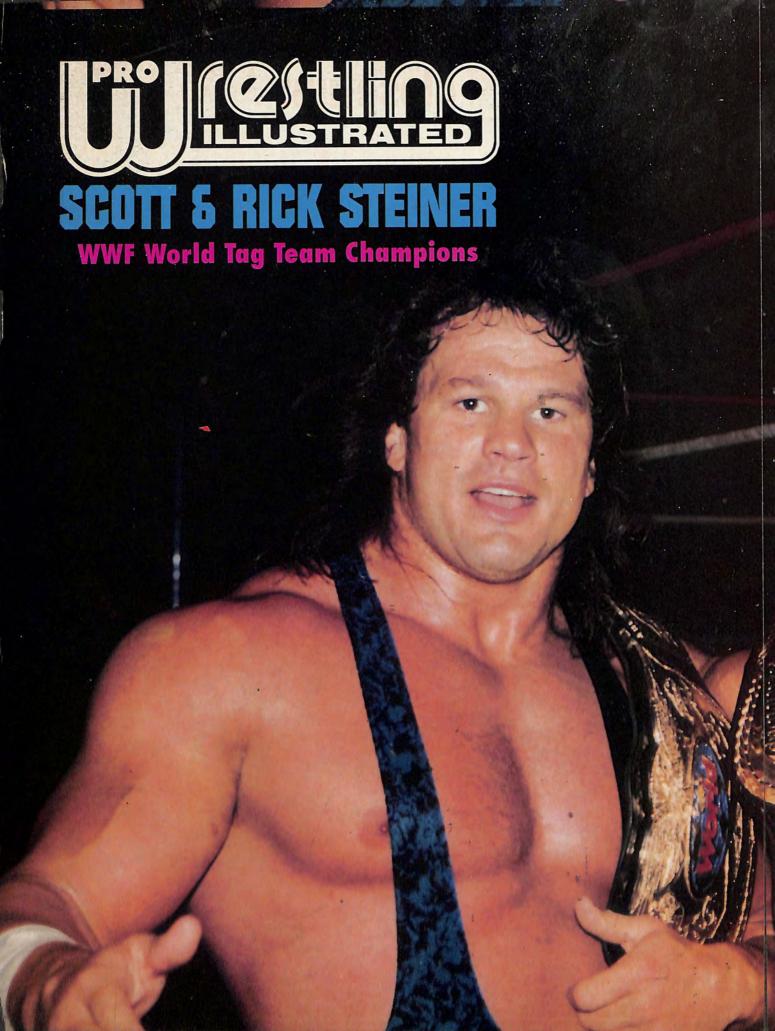
GREATEST MATCH

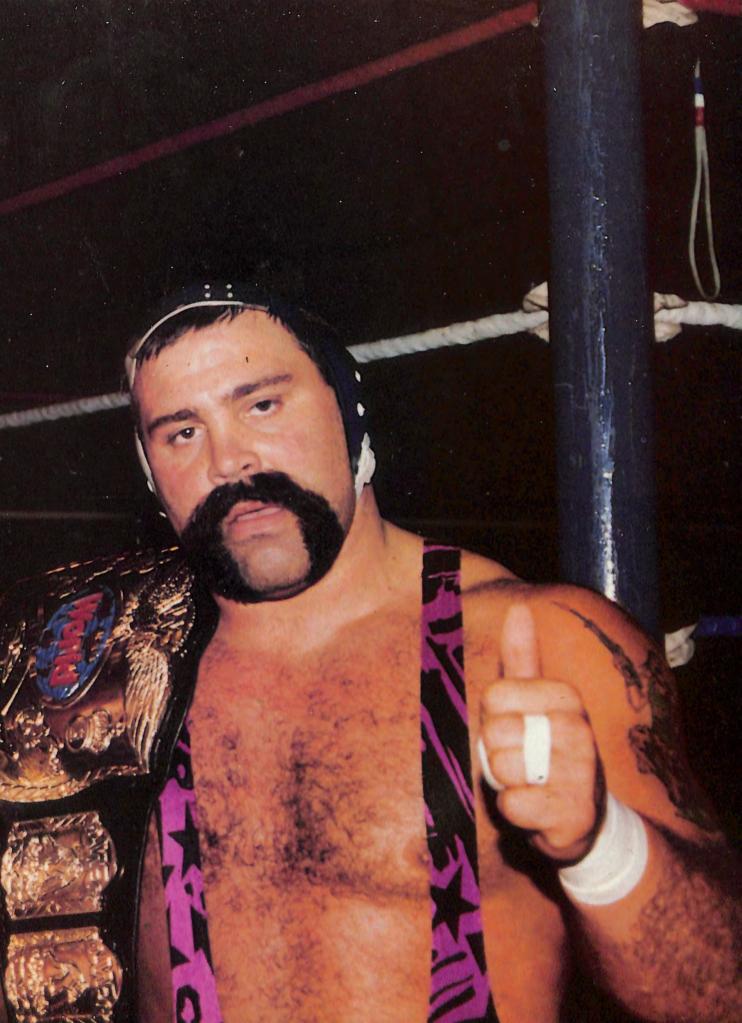
November 1, 1989, vs. Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin. There were other great nights to come, but the first was the sweetest for Rick and Scott. They defeated The Freebirds to win their first NWA World tag title and firmly established themselves as one of the finest teams in the world.

MOST HATED OPPONENTS

Money Inc. Rick and Scott despise Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster for their cowardliness and rulebreaking. Of course, there's history between the Steiners and Schyster, the former Mike Rotundo. Rick teamed with Rotundo in The Varsity Club and later feuded against him. Rotundo insulted Rick's intelligence; Rick insulted Rotundo's alma mater.







close-up:

REAL SEOTT STENES

Hometown: Detroit, Michigan Height: Rick: 5'11"; Scott 6'1" Weight: Rick: 248; Scott: 235 Years Pro: Rick 9; Scott 8

Rick and Scott Steiner are the current WWF World tag team champions ... The brothers were amateur standouts at the University of Michigan and have carried their collegiate pride into the ring ... Rick turned pro in 1983 and was trained by Brad Rheingans ... Teamed with Sting, but lost to Chris Adams and Terry Taylor in the final of the UWF tag team tournament in 1987 ... Came back two months later to beat Taylor and Sam Houston for the belts ... Joined Kevin Sullivan's "Varsity Club" and teamed with Mike Rotundo ... A feud between Rotundo and Steiner developed, as Rick led the crowds in anti-Syracuse chants directed at Rotundo's alma mater ... Because

of his feud with Rotundo and his strange behavior, Rick quickly became popular with the fans, earning

the nickname "The Dogfaced Gremlin"
... Won the NWA TV title from Rotundo at
Starrcade '88 ... Lost the belt, but
teamed with Eddie Gilbert to win the U.S.
tag team title ... Scott broke into wrestling
in 1986 and shortly afterward won the
World Wrestling Association championship
... Teamed with Dr. Jerry Graham Jr. to win
the WWA tag team title in 1987 ... Beat
Robert Fuller to win the \$250,000 "Renegade
Rampage" and was third runner-up in the voting for PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED Rookie of the
Year in 1988 ... In February 1989, teamed
with Jed Grundy to win the CWA tag belts ...
In April 1989, Scott left the CWA and began
teaming with Rick in the NWA ... Managed by
Missy Hyatt, the Steiners defeated Sullivan
and Rotundo at The Great American Bash on

tag team title on November 1, 1989, with a win over Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin ... At the "Iron Team" competition at Starrcade '89, the

July 23, 1989 ... Won their first NWA World

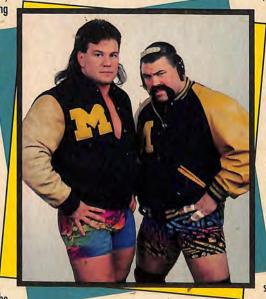
Steiners finished second to The Road Warriors and defeated Doom and The Samoans ... Scott was voted 1989's Most Improved Wrestler by the readers of this magazine ... The Steiners' long feud with Doom ended when they defeated the masked rulebreakers at Clash of the Champions X and forced them to unmask ... Doom turned out to be Ron Simmons and Butch Reed ... Lost the tag belts to Doom on May 19, 1990 ... Won the U.S. tag belts from The Midnight Express on August 24, 1990, in East Rutherford, New Jersey ... Endured a feud with The Nasty Boys in which Jerry Sags and Brian Knobs constantly sneak-attacked them ... Were voted Tag Team of the Year for 1990 by the readers of PWI ... Defeated The Great Muta and Mr. Saito in the championship of the Pat O'Connor Memorial International Tag Team Tournament at Starrcade '90 ... Teamed with Sting and Brian Pillman-and lost to The Four Horsemen in "War Games" at Wrestle War '91 ... Regained the NWA World tag belts from The Freebirds on February 18, 1991, in Montgomery, Alabama ... As a result of winning the belts, the Steiners were forced to give up the U.S. title ... Defeated Hiro Hase and Kensuke Sasaki for the IWGP tag team title on March 21 in Tokyo ... A spectacular fan favorites vs. fan favorites match highlighted Super Brawl '91, when the Steiners wrestled Sting and Lex Luger ... The Steiners wrestled a classic match and retained the belts, but the win was marred by Nikita Koloff's outside interference ... Rick injured his left arm at Clash of the Champions XV when Dick Slater and Dick Murdoch stormed the ring ... Days earlier, Scott had severely injured his shoulder ... That turned out to be the more serious injury, as he was sidelined indefinitely with a torn left bicep ... Rick teamed with Hyatt to defeat Paul E. Dangerously and Arn Anderson in a cage match at the Great American Bash ... With Scott out of action, Rick teamed with Simmons, Big Josh, and several other WCW wrestlers ... But the brothers were stripped of the title in July ... Bill Kazmaier filled in for Scott, and, with Rick, became number-one challengers to the tag belts ... Larry Zbyszko and Arn Anderson won the belts when they defeated Rick and Kazmaier in a tournament final on September 5 ... Scott returned on October 27 and

teamed with Rick, Sting, and El Gigante to beat Abdullah the Butcher, Cactus Jack,

Diamond Studd, and Big Van Vader in a "chamber of horrors" match ... Rick lost to WCW World champion Luger in the main event at Clash of the Champions XVII ... Continued their feud with Arn Anderson and Bobby Eaton and finally regained the World tag team title on May 3, 1992, in Chicago ... The Steiners, however, were quickly in for a more intense challenge, as Steve Williams and Terry Gordy returned from Japan and targeted the belts ... At Beach Blast '92, the teams battled to a 30-minute draw ... On June 26 in Tokyo, the Steiners regained the IWGP tag belts from Vader and Bam Bam Bigelow ... On July 5, Williams and Gordy won the WCW World tag belts from the Steiners ... Williams and Gordy declared them-

selves "the best tag team in the world"
... On September 23 in Yokohama,

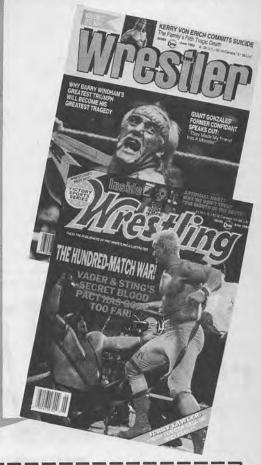
Japan, the Steiners defended their IWGP belts against Hiroshi Hase and Sasaki ... Rick tore his right pectoral muscle and was expected to miss three months ... Six days later, Scott won the WCW TV title from Rick Steamboat ... Rick returned earlier than expected, but the brothers lost the IWGP belts to Tony Halme and Scott Norton on November 22 ... Rick was clearly wrestling at less than 100 percent ... A new chapter in the Steiners' careers began on December 14, when they made their WWF debuts with a win over Rock Warner and Scott Colton in Green Bay, Wisconsin ... Made their WWF pay-per-view debuts with a win over The Beverly Brothers at the 1993 Royal Rumble ... Were in line for a WrestleMania IX match against WWF World tag champs Money Inc. when Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake returned ... Made their WrestleMania debut with a win over The Headshrinkers ... Finally achieved WWF glory during six shocking days in June ... On June 14, in Columbus, Ohio, the Steiners won the tag belts from Money Inc. ... On June 16, Money Inc. regained the belts in Rockford, Illinois ... Then, on June 19 in St. Louis, the Steiners won the title again ... Rick and Scott are only the third team to win World tag titles in the WWF and WCW/NWA ... As their careers go on, it's clear the Steiners are one of the greatest tag teams this sport has seen.



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You'd think someone who manages Big Van Vader wouldn't need to interfere on his behalf. Still, Harley Race helps out every now and then—choking Sting, for instance.

HARLEY RACE

ANDSOME" HARLEY RACE has achieved nearly as much success as a manager as he did as a wrestler. Race dominated the NWA for 10 years, winning seven World titles between 1973 and 1983, a record he shares with Ric Flair.

As a manager, he assisted Lex Luger in his defense of the WCW World title during Luger's seven-month reign. Most managers would have panicked had their top meal ticket retired in the prime of his career. When Luger did just that, in favor of the ill-fated World Bodybuilding Federation, Race simply plugged in Big Van Vader. And all Vader has done is win the WCW World title on three separate occasions and establish himself as a more dominant champion than Luger.

When Col. Robert Parker recently brought Sid Vicious into WCW, he and Race put together Vicious and Vader, calling them The Masters of the Power Bomb. Some observers feel that the clash of egos will ultimately destroy the pairing, but so far, the quartet seems to be co-existing rather well.

As a manager, Race is not afraid to throw himself into matches involving his men. His interference has saved Vader's title on countless occasions, including a match against Flair on June 19 in Charlotte, North Carolina, when Race also saved the record he shares with the "Nature Boy."

At press time, Race was preparing Vader for his tag team match at Beach Blast against nemeses Sting and Davey Boy Smith. About one week prior to the pay-perview event, the manager found some time in his busy schedule to sit down with Associate Publisher Craig Peters and Senior Writers Chris Bernucca and Dave Rosenbaum to talk about his success as a wrestler and manager, his relationship with Parker, and a number of other topics.

HARLEY RACE: Well, if it isn't my friends from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, the last bastion of integrity in wrestling. Sit right down, boys. Craig, good to see you. How are you?

CRAIG PETERS: Uh, I'm fine, Harley. Are you sure you're feeling okay?

RACE: Me? Of course! Couldn't be better. It's another day on top of the world, as far as I'm concerned.

DAVE ROSENBAUM: Not for long, Harley.

RACE: Now what's that supposed to mean, young man?

CHRIS BERNUCCA: I think what he means is your days on top are numbered.

RACE: Why do you say that?

ROSENBAUM: Face it, Harley. Vader hasn't looked good lately, he's hurt, he's got plenty of competition gunning for his title ... You can't be that happy with the way things have been going.

RACE: Son, let me tell you something. There is nothing I can learn from you about this business—and that's what it is, a business—but there is plenty you can learn from me. So jot this down in your notebook: Every day with the belt is a good day. Understand?

BERNUCCA: But isn't it Vader's job to defend the belt? What I mean is, it seems like you've been involved in his matches a little bit more than you'd like.

RACE: Nonsense, kid. That's a manager's responsibility, among

other things. You see, when you're the champ, everyone is gunning for you. There's no let-up. There's a tremendous mental strain as well as the physical abuse you take in the ring. There are very few nights off. Every opponent knows that all he has to do is get lucky once, and the belt is his. Vader's a strong man—maybe the strongest in the sport—but sometimes even he needs support. That's what I'm there for.

PETERS: To interfere.

RACE: Yeah, to interfere, for lack of a better word.

PETERS: Tell me something, Harley. When you interfered in Vader's match against Ric Flair, did you do so to save his title, or save your record?

RACE: What's that? A trick question, Peters? You know, you guys all think you're so smart.

ROSENBAUM: Well, how about a straightforward question: How much does the record mean to you?

record that
nobody will ever
break: most
combined titles
as a wrestler and
a manager?

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.



RACE: Well, here's a straightforward answer. It means a lot. When I beat Flair for my seventh title [in 1983], I just knew it was my seventh one. But afterward, people were coming up to me and saying, "You beat [Lou] Thesz, you passed Thesz." Someone explained to me that Thesz had won six titles, and that had been the record for a long time, and even guys like Dusty Rhodes hadn't even come close to the record. So in that context, it means a lot. Now Flair. I beat him for the title, and he beat me. But, mostly, his success came during a different era.

PETERS: So were you trying to save your record?

RACE: You just won't let go of that, will you? I was trying to save Vader's title. If I saved my record in the process, so be it. Didn't Flair win a couple of titles in the WWF, though?

PETERS: Yes, he did.

RACE: So what does it matter? He really broke the record already.

PETERS: C'mon, Harley. Don't be so coy. I've known you long enough to know that you care more than that. The record you still share is seven NWA/WCW titles, and Flair is on the verge of breaking that.

RACE: And he's probably going to break it. I just don't want it to happen against Vader. Let him beat Barry Windham or some other huckleberry for the eighth title. I just don't want to be on the losing end. You know what I mean? Besides, by the time I finish in this sport, I'll have a record that nobody will ever break: most combined titles as a wrestler and a manager. Right now, it's 11 and counting, and no one else is close.

BERNUCCA: I'm glad you brought up Vader again, because I want to get back to your strategy with him. Given his injury and the stiff competition he's been facing, did that make your decision to team with Col. Parker and Sid Vicious any easier?

RACE: No, not at all. In fact, they were the ones that came to us.

BERNUCCA: But you still could have said no. Why did you say yes?

RACE: To be a good manager, you have to have an understanding of your stable members. Vader's main goal isn't to win titles. He expects to win titles. What he wants, above all else, is to be remembered as the most powerful, destructive, wrestling machine that ever lived. You guys reported the injuries to Sting, Joe Thurman, Nikita Koloff, Ron Simmons ... am I forgetting anybody?

PETERS: Isn't that enough?

RACE: Peters, you don't understand. Vader's appetite for destruction is insatiable. When the opportunity arose to team with Vicious, Vader was keen for it. He thought teaming with Vicious would allow him to create mayhem and lift the stress that comes with defending the title night after night. I agreed with him. We don't agree on everything, but we have enough respect for each other to hear each other out.

ROSENBAUM: Do you think Vicious and Col. Parker have a hidden agenda?

RACE: If you're asking if I think Vicious and Col. Parker are after Vader's title, no I don't. I could be wrong, but in the long run, they're the ones who'll be dead wrong. Sid Vicious is a good wrestler—a very good wrestler—but he's not in Vader's class. Nobody is. If you ask me, they offered to team with us so



Race concedes that Ric Flair probably will win his eighth NWA/WCW title, breaking the record he shares with the "Nature Boy." However, Race wants to make sure it doesn't come at Vader's expense.



If longtime rival Flair somehow threatens to loosen Vader's grip on the WCW World title, rest assured Race will take matters into his own hands.

they wouldn't have to face us.

ROSENBAUM: Do you trust Col. Parker?

RACE: I do, although I could see where a Yankee like you wouldn't. He does come across as a sharpie sometimes. The night before the match against Flair, we were in Winston-Salem, and Vader's plane was late. We were scheduled to wrestle that joker, Davey Boy Smith. I sold the contract for the match to Parker for Vicious to wrestle Smith. Then bigmouth Grizzly Smith comes out and announces that, according to the contract, the title is still on the line. Like I said before, Vicious is a good wrestler, but he's not in Vader's class. He got in trouble and I had to save him. I got into it pretty good with Parker after the match. I let him know that saving Sid's butt was his responsibility, not mine. When Vader finally blew into town, he wasn't too happy about what happened, either. So you can bet that from now on, if the title is on the line, it will be Vader defending it. You live and learn. [Checks his

watch] Are we all done here?

BERNUCCA: Just about. You seem to enjoy throwing yourself into the fray, so to speak, and you mentioned Dusty's name before. He's been talking comeback for a while now. Is there any chance you'll be getting back into the ring?

RACE: [Laughs] Not with wrestling tights on! My competitive days are over, kid. Unlike some jerks in this sport, I know when it's time to move on. But I love the sport-it's been my entire life-so I worked hard to become the best manager I could, because I wanted to be around the sport as long as I could. And when I retire, they're gonna say one of two things. "There goes Harley Race, the greatest wrestler of all-time," or "There goes Harley Race, the greatest manager of all-time." In fact, maybe they'll say both.



HOMETOWN: Hendersonville, TN

HEIGHT: 5'10" WEIGHT: 220 YEARS AS PRO: 7 RATING: No. 3, USWA STRENGTHS:

- · Vertical leap. His pinpoint dropkicks are generally acknowledged as among the best
- · Training. Learned from his father (Jerry Jarrett), Jerry Lawler, and Jackie Fargo.
- · Enthusiasm. Combines a rookie's exuberance with a veteran's guile.

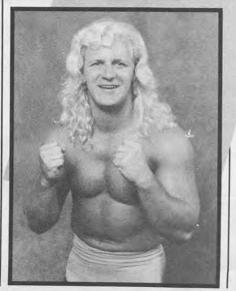
WEAKNESSES:

- · Meddling. Focuses on reforming rulebreakers at the expense of his own career.
- · Passive. Rarely faces stars from federations outside USWA region.
- · Stomach. When winded from foes' blows, takes too much time to recover.

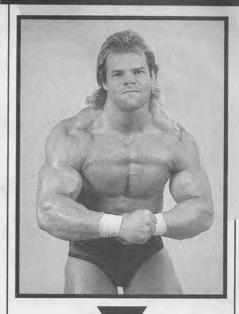
OTHER COMMENTS: Has won the USWA Southern title five times, most recently on June 28 against arch-rival Brian Christopher ... USWA unified belt has eluded him ... Worked as a referee before becoming a wrestler ... Captured World Class light heavyweight title, and has won tag team belts with six different partners.

OUTLOOK FOR '93-'94: Should continue as one of USWA's elite, eventually succeeding Lawler as its top draw somewhere down the line. However, Jarrett must beat some stars from elsewhere in order to truly emulate "The King."

JEFF JARRETT



LEX LUGER



HOMETOWN: Chicago, IL

HEIGHT: 6'5" WEIGHT: 290 YEARS AS PRO: 8 RATING: No. 3, WWF STRENGTHS:

· Opportunism. Invigorated by the possibil-

- ities fan favoritism offers. · Strength. Loaded right arm is an incredi-
- ble weapon. · Competition. Has taken on the best from
- both WCW and the WWF.

WEAKNESSES:

- · Overconfidence. Doesn't believe he can lose; others prove it occasionally.
 - · Lack of rack. Stopped using finishing move after leaving WCW.
 - · Mobility. Still a very methodical wrestler, too dependent on clothes-

OTHER COMMENTS: Was WCW World champion for seven months before leaving for Vince McMahon's ill-fated World Bodybuilding Federation in 1992 ... Never actually competed in WBF due to motorcycle accident ... Has shifted from fan favorite to rulebreaker several times ... A four-time NWA U.S. champ between 1987 and 1990 ... He and Barry Windham were NWA tag team champs in 1988.

OUTLOOK FOR '93-'94: In line to replace Hulk Hogan as the WWF's premier fan favorite, Luger may become only the third wrestler to win world titles in both the WWF and NWA/WCW. Still, his inconsistency remains annoying.

HOMETOWN: Iowa City, IA

HEIGHT: 6'6" WEIGHT: 350 YEARS AS PRO: 6 RATING: unrated STRENGTHS:

- Intensity. His approach to matches almost borders on insanity.
- Payne-killer. The only wrestler who can make an opponent submit with an armlock.
- Bulk. Easily able to stay on feet, resist
 slams

WEAKNESSES:

- Underachiever. Has excellent amateur background, but fails to use it.
- Unfocused. Does he want to be a wrestling champion or a rock star?
- Lumbering. Has trouble rallying against quicker opponents.

OTHER COMMENTS: Was an All-America wrestler at junior college and at Iowa State ... Won the CWA heavyweight title in 1988, and teamed with Gary Young for a tag team belt the same year ... Has been recently feuding with Johnny B.

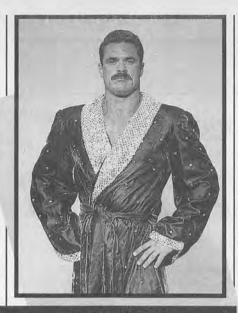


MAXX PAYNE



Badd, and stole his "Badd blaster" at Clash of the Champions XXIII.

OUTLOOK FOR '93-'94: Will remain competitive in WCW, but must vary his repertoire and concentrate on wrestling if he wants to be a genuine title contender. For all Payne talks about "tapping into his dark side," he should also tap into his considerable talent.



RICK RUDE



HOMETOWN: Robbinsdale, MN HEIGHT: 6'4"

> WEIGHT: 246 YEARS AS PRO: 10 RATING: No. 2, WCW STRENGTHS:

- Deceptively strong. His streamlined appearance belies how powerful he really is.
- No manager. Finally on his own after previous mentors led him astray.
- Intelligence. Has solid knowledge of wrestling, honed over the years.

WEAKNESSES:

in 1989.

- "Rude awakening." Opponents are learning how to avoid this famed finishing move.
- · Arrogance. A legend in his own mind.
- Casual approach. He too often plays to the audience rather than follow up on a move.

OTHER COMMENTS: Won WCW U.S. title in 1991 while part of The Dangerous Alliance, and held it for more than a year until being stripped of the belt due to injury ... Also competed in the WWF where, managed by Bobby Heenan, he was Intercontinental champion for four months

OUTLOOK FOR '93-'94: Always dangerous, Rude can beat virtually anyone in WCW—that is, when he harnesses his skills. Unfortunately, he can also lose to inferior competitors when overconfident. Consistency should be Rude's goal over the next few months.

HOMETOWN: Miami, FL

HEIGHT: 6'1" WEIGHT: 260 YEARS AS PRO: 3 RATING: No. 9, WWF STRENGTHS:

- Tomahawk chop. Trademark move takes wind out of opponents.
- Quickness. Always in motion, hard to catch.
- Tenacity. Continually goes after rivals, no matter how long the feud.

WEAKNESSES:

- Poor finisher. Doesn't know how to capitalize on an advantage.
- Wastes energy. Sometimes spends too much time on war dance.
- Sensational Sherri. Protecting her isn't in any wrestler's best interest.

OTHER COMMENTS: A Native

American who exploded on the scene by beating Rick Martel at WrestleMania VII

... Played football at James Madison University ... Trained by the renowned Larry Sharpe on the advice of the late Buddy Rogers.

OUTLOOK FOR '93-'94: Few will deny that the fast-moving Tatanka is fun to watch. However, the jury's still out as to whether he has the skills to go with his style. Tatanka must prove he's a legitimate threat for either Intercontinental or World honors in coming months, or risk being viewed as a novelty and little more.



TATANKA





reports

CALIFORNIA

ANAHEIM-WWF at The Pond Of Anaheim: The Kid pinned Terry Taylor ... Papa Shango defeated The Tonga Kid (substituting for Kamala) ... The Headshrinkers defeated The Smoking Gunns when Fatu pinned Bart ... The Undertaker beat Giant Gonzales by disqualification ... Tatanka and Bam Bam Bigelow battled to a double-countout ... Lex Luger pinned Razor Ramon ... Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels pinned Curt Hennig after Diesel interfered. (06-28-93)

-Mike Smith

FLORIDA

TAMPA-ICWA at the Sportatorium: Richard Anderson fought to a 10-minute draw with The Kangaroo Kid ... Manny Fernandez beat The Black Panther ... Billy Mack beat The Lord of Discipline by disqualification ... The Southern Posse beat Mike Moore & Bill Pain ... In a coal miner's glove match, Top Gun Assassin beat Jumbo Barretta. (07-08-93)

-Shannon Rose

FORT LAUDERDALE—Atlantic Wrestling Council at Fort Lauderdale Beach: The Demon Helistorm. J.R. James, & Mohammed the Butcher defeated Pat Mulkey, Juan Valdes, & The Vagrant ... King Rusty Brooks beat Tony Golden ... "Party Animal" Steve Collins defeated Blare Rogers ... Heavyweight champion Ram Man beat Dr. Ricardo Montanna ... Bobby Rogers and Barry Houston went to a double-disqualification in the third fall of a best-of-three falls light heavyweight title match ... Lisa The Adjuster & Commando Kelly Creamer defeated Mr. Loverman & Heather the Spanish Fly in a women's tag match ... Bob Roop beat Frank E. Billiards in a special arm-wrestling match ... "Party Animal" Steve Collins won a 15-man battle royal. (07-04-93)

-Mike Greene

GEORGIA

GAINESVILLE-WCW TV taping at the Georgia Mountains Center: Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce beat Z-Man & Johnny Gunn ... Paul Roma beat Tom Burton ... Rick Steamboat defeated Fury ... Ric Flair & Arn Anderson beat Bobby Eaton & Chris Benoit ... Ron Simmons defeated Rage ... Lord Steven Regal and Rick Steamboat battled to a 10-minute, time-limit draw ... The Equalizer defeated Rob Dupree ... Chi-Town Heat beat Tommy Angel & Brad Anderson ... World tag team champion The Hollywood Blonds defeated Erik Watts & Scott Stud ... Davey Boy Smith beat Big Sky (substituting for Big Van Vader) ... Rick

Rude defeated Davey Rich ... Dustin Rhodes beat Top Gun ... Rick Steamboat defeated Lord Steven Regal by disqualification when Paul Orndorff interfered ... Johnny B. Badd pinned Maxx Payne. (06-29-93)

-Dale Horner

KENTUCKY

LOUISVILLE-WWF/USWA at Louisville Gardens: Razor Ramon beat Tito Santana ... Kamala pinned Damien Dimento ... Crush beat Doink the Clown by countout when Jeff Jarrett held Doink's feet. keeping him from getting back into the ring ... World champion Yokozuna beat Hacksaw Duggan ... Jerry Lawler beat USWA champion Papa Shango by disqualification when Bert Prentice interfered ... Blake Beverly beat Virgil ... Jeff Jarrett beat USWA Southern champion Brian Christopher in a non-title match ... USWA tag team champions Rex King & Steve Doll beat The Smokin' Gunns when Rex pinned Bart ... Bret Hart beat Lex Luger. (06-18-93)

-Shawn Underhill

PIKEVILLE-Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Pikeville College gym: Tim Horner battled to a draw with Chris Candido ... Brian Lee beat "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony ... SMW champion Tracey Smothers defeated Kevin Sullivan in a \$20,000 bounty on Smothers' head match ... SMW tag team champions The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat The Bruise Brothers by disqualification ... Jim Del Ray & Tom Prichard beat Scott & Steve Armstrong. (06-18-93)

-Millicent Gillingham

MARYLAND

ABERDEEN-WCW at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds: Sandman pinned J.T. Smith ... Johnny Gunn pinned Joey Maggs ... Erik Watts pinned Rage ... Johnny B. Badd pinned Maxx Payne ... Paul Roma & Arn Anderson beat Chris Benoit & Bobby Eaton ... Sting pinned Sid Vicious (managed by Col. Robert Parker). (07-10-93)

-Lisa DiCampli



The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly newsletters. Readers of PWI Weekly received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to PWI Weekly, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

GLEN BURNIE-Independent card at the La Fountaine Blue Hall, for the benefit of the Marley area Little League: Mighty Mike beat Trent Young Brett Tyler beat The Terminator ... Morgus the Maniac pinned Mike Parker ... Jack Hammer & Bulldozer Benton beat Bad Breed when Bulldozer pinned lan Rotten ... Lucifer, The Knight of the Road beat Bob Starr ... Duane Gill pinned Sledgehammer McGill ... T-Bone Strong beat Jay Sledge by submission ... Ramblin' Rich beat Hack Myers ... Dino Casanova pinned Nick Tarrentino Agent Orange beat Rip Sawyer ... Joe Collins II won a battle royal, ousting Casanova and T-Bone at the same time. (06-22-93)

-Timothy A. Walker

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON-WWF at Boston Garden: "El Matador" Tito Santana pinned "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi ... Mr. Hughes pinned Bob Backlund ... Luna Vachon pinned Sensational Sherri when Doink interfered and hooked Sherri's leg ... Yokozuna pinned Hacksaw Duggan in a lumberjack match ... Owen Hart pinned Damian Dimento Crush beat Doink by reversed decision when the referee spotted Doink II under the ring ... Hulk Hogan & Brutus Beefcake beat Money Inc. when Hogan pinned Ted DiBiase. (06-26-93)

-Luis Fortuna

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS-NWA at the American Indian Center: Ricky Rice defeated The Hater by disqualification ... Chosen One won a battle royal ... Chris Candido battled Brian Christopher to a double-disqualification ... Derrick Dukes beat Sam Cougar ... Sabu defeated Jerry Lynn ... Billy Blaze beat J.B. Trask ... Road Warrior Hawk defeated Eddie Gilbert. (07-10-93)

-Jerry Mulroy

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS-WWF at the Arena: "The Rocket" Owen Hart beat Terry Taylor ... Luna Vachon defeated Sensational Sherri ... The Undertaker beat Giant Gonzales ... Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels beat Marty Jannetty ... Mr. Hughes defeated Bob Backlund ... Tatanka beat Bam Bam Bigelow by countout ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat World tag team champion Money Inc. when Scott pinned Ted DiBiase after a "Frankensteiner." (06-19-93)

-Larry Hohnbaum

NEW JERSEY

ATLANTIC CITY—WWF at the Convention Center Ballroom: Virgil pinned Mike Sharpe ... Sensational Sherri pinned Luna Vachon ... Randy Savage pinned Doink II ... Jim Powers (substituting for Owen Hart) pinned Tasmaniac ... Adam Bomb (with manager Johnny Polo) pinned Tito Santana ... World tag team champions Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Money Inc. when Scott pinned Ted DiBiase. (06-30-93)

-Burton Crane

LAKE HIAWATHA—East Coast Pro Wrestling at the Arena: The Executioner battled Mr. Motion to a time-limit draw ... Devon Storm beat Dennis Knight ... Rocky Jones beat The Kodiak Bear ... Mike Maraldo beat The Strangler ... Gino Caruso fought Liberty Valance to a time-limit draw ... Billy the Kid beat Terrible Todd ... Jackknife Johnny battled Metalhead to a double-disqualification ... In a heavyweight title tournament, Rocky Jones beat Devon Storm ... Billy the Kid beat Mike Maraldo ... In the final match, Jones beat Billy the Kid to win the first ECPW heavyweight title. (06-23-93)

-Johnny Gnatt

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF Monday Night Raw at the Manhattan Center: The Kid pinned Blake Beverly ... Bam Bam Bigelow defeated Joey Maggs ... The Undertaker pinned Samu ... Curt Hennig defeated Brian Costello ... World tag team champions Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Money Inc. when Rick pinned Ted DiBiase ... The Headshrinkers beat L.A. Gore & Russ Greenberg when Fatu pinned Greenberg ... Tatanka defeated "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi ... Mr. Hughes pinned Tony DiVito ... Barry Horowitz defeated Phil Apollo ... World champion Yokozuna pinned Crush. (07-05-93)

-Bob Zerfram

UNIONDALE—WWF at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum: Yokozuna beat Hacksaw Duggan in a lumberjack match ... World tag team champions Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Money Inc. when Scott pinned Ted DiBiase ... Crush beat Doink by reverse decision ... Mr. Hughes pinned Bob Backlund ... Sensational Sherri beat Luna by disqualification ... Owen Hart beat Damian Dimento ... "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi beat The Predator. (06-27-93)

-Hailey Apter

NORTH CAROLINA

ELKIN—PWF at the Armory: George South & Terry Austin defeated Scotty McKeever & Super Brat ... Heavyweight champion Italian Stallion beat Austin Steele ... Tag team champions Flaming Youth & Cruel Connection II defeated Russian Assassin II & Super Mario ... Gladiator II beat American G.I. (07-10-93)

-Brock Chandler

WENDELL—CCWA at Southern Christian Academy: Mark Ash defeated The Intruder ... Flash defeated Michael Yamaha ... Bobby McGregor beat The Mad Dog by countout ... The Cripplers beat The Country Club ... The Gulf Coast Posse defeated Chris Stevenson, The Iron Chief, & Kid Vicious. (07-10-93)

-Henry Dane

PFAFFTOWN—American Independent Wrestling Federation at the West Central Community Center: Sebastian Kane pinned The Blaze ... Chris Windham beat Brian Danzig by disqualification ... Dynamite Doug & Bad Brad defeated Jumpin' Jimmy & Daniel "The Dragon" Lee ... Heavyweight champion Chucky Baby beat Righteous Rider ... The Terminators defeated Justice Inc. in a pole match for the tag team title. (07-03-93)

-Dean Puckett

RALEIGH—WCW at Dorton Arena: Johnny Gunn pinned Tommy Angel (substituting for Maxx Payne) ... Marcus Alexander Bagwell pinned Tex Slazenger ... 2 Cold Scorpio pinned Shanghai Pierce ... Dustin Rhodes & Arn Anderson battled NWA/WCW World tag team champions The Hollywood Blonds to a double-disqualification ... Rick Rude defeated Van Hammer ... Ric Flair, Sting, & Davey Boy Smith defeated Sid Vicious, Barry Windham, & Maxx Payne (who was substituting for Big Van Vader) when Payne submitted to Sting's scorpion leglock. (06-21-93)

-Scott Penatzer

OHIO

COLUMBUS—NWF at Cooper Stadium: "He-Man" Randy Lewis pinned The Terrorist ... USA Express beat The Masked Executioners, unmasking Executioner I ... Lord Humongous and Mighty Goliath battled to a double-countout ... Chief Jules Strongbow pinned The Libyan Sheik in an international grudge match ... NWF champion Nikolai Volkoff pinned The Grimm Reaper. (07-09-93)

-Peter Fusco

CANTON—WWF at the Memorial Civic Center: Blake Beverly pinned Virgil after an inside cradle ... Kamala pinned Damien Dimento ... Razor Ramon beat Tito Santana ... World champion Yokozuna pinned Hâcksaw Duggan after a "setting sun" splash ... The Headshrinkers beat The Smokin' Gunns when Samu pinned Billy Gunn ... Crush beat Doink the Clown on a reverse decision disqualification when Doink II interfered ... Lex Luger pinned Bret Hart after knocking him out with the steel plate in his forearm. (06-16-93)

-Jeff Gorman

OREGON

PORTLAND—Championship Wrestling USA at the Interstate Pavilion: Karl Pope beat Nick Danger ... Sumito fought John Rambo to a time-limit draw ... Lou Andrews beat Buddy Wayne ... Dane Rush battled The Hawaii Kid to a 20-minute draw ... Bruiser Brian beat Jesse Barr by countout. (07-10-93)

-Kenn Jones

PORTLAND—Championship Wrestling USA at the Interstate Pavilion: Dane Rush beat Nick Danger ...



John Rambo fought the Hawaii Kid to a 10-minute draw ... Bruiser Brian and Carl Pope battled to a no-contest ... The Silver Shadow beat Lou Andrews ... Jesse Barr beat Sumito with his feet on the ropes.

(07-03-93)

-Kenn Jones

PENNSYLVANIA

TOWER CITY—WCW at Williams Valley High School: Johnny Gunn defeated Joey Maggs ... Erik Watts beat Rage ... Van Hammer defeated Fury ... Johnny B. Badd beat Maxx Payne ... Arn Anderson & Paul Roma defeated Chris Benoit & Bobby Eaton ... Sting beat Sid Vicious. (07-11-93)

-Randy Bellwood

PHILADELPHIA—ECW at ECW Arena: Herve Rinestro and Don E. Allen fought to a no-contest ... TV champion Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka pinned J.T. Smith ... Tony "The Hitman" Stetson beat Larry Winters in a first-blood match ... Miss Peaches defeated Terrible Tigra in a cat fight ... TV champion Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka pinned Tommy "Ironman" Cairo ... The Rebel pinned The Sandman in a Philadelphia street brawl ... Don Murdoch pinned Dark Patriot II ... Wildman Sal Bellomo & Super Destroyer I beat The Suicide Blonds in a tag team match when Bellomo pinned Johny Hot Body ... Eddie Gilbert defeated Terry Funk in a Texas chain massacre match. (06-19-93)

-Joe Vincent

YORK—American Commonwealth Wrestling at the Springettsberry Fire Co.: Drifter Lucifer pinned Rick Tango ... Reginald Roy pinned Quinn Nash ... Soultrain Phillips pinned Rob Morton ... Cory Roberts beat Watsumi The Rising Sun ... Ricky Lane pinned Bob Starr ... Heavyweight champion Max Thrasher beat A.J. Fritzoid by disqualification ... Drifter Lucifer won a nine-man battle-royal after ousting Rick Tango ... Morgus The Maniac & The Wolfman brawled to a double disqualification with The Drifters.

(06-17-93)

-Mike Shauler & Timothy A. Walker

TENNESSEE

KINGSPORT—Tennessee Championship Wrestling at the Middle School: The Wild Samoan pinned The Mountain Rocker ... Bam Bam & Danny Christian beat Rick Harrison & Billy Splash when Danny pinned Splash ... Tag team champions The Young Guns beat Sudden Death ... Jimmy Garvin beat Stan Lee by disqualification when Lee accidentally hit the referee. (07-10-93)

-Bill Needham

MARYVILLE—All-State Wrestling at the Junction: Mike Powers pinned Bobby B ... Jeff Gahn beat The Night Rider by disqualification ... Charlie Long beat E.F. Hutton ... Rick Connors & Tony Muraco beat Akron Al-Hussein & Steppenwolf when Connors pinned Steppenwolf ... Regulator Steel pinned heavyweight champion Tony T. (07-08-93)

-Bill Needham

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum:
Miss Texas defeated Paul Neighbors by disqualification ... Jeff Jarrett beat Tony Falk in a hair match—Jarrett's hair against the hair of Falk's father ... Jerry Lawler defeated USWA champion Owen Hart ... C.W. Bergstrom & Melvin Penrod Jr. beat

tag team champions New Jack & Homeboy when Penrod pinned Jack ... Results of a 16-man tournament, where the winner received a 1993 Chevrolet: First round-Steve Doll defeated Homeboy ... Melvin Penrod Jr. beat Dutch Mantel by forfeit ... Rex King defeated New Jack ... Danny Davis beat Bo Alexander ... C.W. Bergstrom defeated Jeff Gaylord ... Scott Taylor beat Master Of Terror ... Randy Rocket defeated Tony Falk by disqualification after Falk used brass knuckles ... Brian Christopher beat Mike Anthony by forfeit. Quarterfinals-Danny Davis defeated Rex King by forfeit ... Steve Doll beat Melvin Penrod Jr. by disqualification ... Scott Taylor defeated C.W. Bergstrom ... Brian Christopher beat Randy Rocket. Semifinals-Danny Davis defeated Steve Doll ... Brian Christopher beat Scott Taylor. Finals—Danny Davis defeated Brian Christopher. (07-05-93)

-Mark Mitchell

MORRISTOWN—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at East High School: "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony beat Mongolian Stomper ... Bobby Blaze pinned The Dark Secret ... SMW tag team champions The Bruise Brothers beat The Rock 'n' Roll Express ... Tracey Smothers fought Tim Horner to a no-contest when Brian Lee interfered in the match ... Scott & Steve Armstrong beat Tom Prichard & Jim Del Ray. (07-02-93)

-Bill Needham

BRISTOL—WCW at the Viking Hall Civic Center: 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell beat Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce ... Jim Neidhart defeated Rage ... Ron Simmons beat Dick Slater ... Davey Boy Smith defeated Big Sky ... Dustin Rhodes pinned Lord Steven Regal ... Ric Flair pinned Brian Pillman. (06-24-93)

-Charles J. Barnette

TEXAS

DALLAS—GWF at the Sportatorium: Killer Brooks defeated Larry Shane ... Plowboy Wilbur beat Hollywood John Tatum ... Captain Ron & Big John Hawk battled to a two-out-of-three time-limit draw ... Kendo Nagasaki defeated Johnny Dollar ... The Kongs beat Dapper Dan & Chris Barrett ... GWF champion Rod Price defeated Chris Adams. (07-02-93)

-David Hightower

VICTORIA—American Wrestling Federation at the Legend Center: Chaz defeated Danny Law ... Gary "The Hog" Young beat Doc Holiday ... Skippy defeated Prince Albert ... Skippy & Dino Hernandez beat Prince Albert and Gary "The Hog" Young ... Tugboat Taylor and Sheik Insane battled to a double-disqualification. (06-26-93)

-B.J. Angel

PREMONT—Universal Wrestling Association at K.C. Hall: Diamond Rocket beat Rudy Boy by disqualification ... Lightning Mike and Rob Style battled to a draw ... Midnight Fantasy pinned El Lobo Negro ... Diamond Rocket & Mr. B The Bouncer beat Rudy Boy & The Destroyer when Rocket pinned Destroyer ... Hillbilly Bob beat "Rough Rider" Chuck West by disqualification in a strap match. (06-24-93)

-Rob Moore

VIRGINIA

ROANOKE—WCW at the Civic Center: 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell defeated Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce when Bagwell pinned Pierce ... Jim Neidhart pinned The Italian Stallion ... Ron Simmons pined Rage of The Wrecking Crew ... Sting & Davey Boy Smith defeated Dick Slater & Lord Steven Regal when Sting pinned Slater ... Dustin Rhodes pinned Big Sky ... Ric Flair & Arn Anderson defeated NWA/WCW World tag team champions The Hollywood Blonds in a non-title match when Flair pinned Steve Austin. (06-26-93)

-David Roberson

NORFOLK—WCW Clash of the Champions at the Scope: Ron Simmons pinned Dick Slater (substi-



(06-17-93)

SEATTLE—WWF at the Seattle Center Coliseum: Bastion Booger pinned Jim Powers ... Mr. Hughes pinned Kamala ... The Headshrinkers defeated The Smokin' Gunns when Fatu pinned Bart ... Owen Hart pinned Damian Dimento ... Sensational Sherri battled Luna Vachon to a nocontest when the referee decided Vachon was using the cast on her broken arm as a weapon ... Bret Hart pinned Lex Luger ... Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels defeated Curt Hennig. (07-10-93)

tuting for Paul Orndorff) after a powerslam ... Lord

Steven Regal pinned Marcus Alexander Bagwell

place, as Payne used Badd's "blaster" to blind him

before the match began ... NWA champion Barry

Windham beat 2 Cold Scorpio ... Rick Rude, Big Van Vader, & Sid Vicious beat Dustin Rhodes,

Sting, & Davey Boy Smith when Rude pinned Rhodes after Vader smashed him with a metal brief-

case ... In a two-out-of-three falls match, Ric Flair & Arn Anderson beat World tag team champions

Brian Pillman & Steve Austin. Flair pinned Pillman

in the first fall, and the champions were disqualified

in fall two when Barry Windham interfered.

Maxx Payne vs. Johnny B. Badd never took

-Brent Kremen

-Michael Cheslock

WEST VIRGINIA

PRINCETON—PWF at the High School: Heavyweight champion Italian Stallion defeated Terry Austin ... Junior heavyweight champion George South beat Flaming Youth ... Cruel Connection II defeated Mad Dog ... Scotty McKeever beat Austin Steele.

(06-26-93)

-Lance Bell

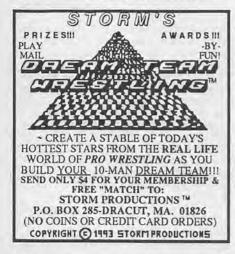
PETERSBURG—National Wrestling League at the Tri-County Fairgrounds: Malcolm Ecstasy pinned Alan Anthony ... Doug Grubb & Nate McClung defeated The Disciples of Darkness, Damian & Lucifer ... NWL heavyweight champion Neil "The Power" Superior defeated Jimmy Deo by reverse decision ... Preston Steele & Little Ninja defeated Malcolm Ecstasy & Shane Shadows ... Johnny Gunn beat Rasta the Voodoo Nion by disqualification. (06-26-93)

-Timothy A. Walker

CHARLESTON—WCW at the Charleston Civic Center: 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell defeated Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce ... Jim Neidhart defeated Rage of The Wrecking Crew ... Ron Simmons defeated Dick Slater ... Davey Boy Smith pinned Big Sky ... Ric Flair & Arn Anderson beat NWA/WCW World tag team champions The Hollywood Blonds in a non-title match ... Dustin Rhodes pinned Lord Steven Regal. (06-25-93)

-Phil Nicholas





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INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRIA

VIENNA-CWA at the Stadium: Mile Zrno beat Yamamoto ... Bruiser Mastino pinned Dave Taylor ... Dave Finlay defeated heavyweight champion Rambo by disqualification ... Lance Storm beat Larry Cameron by disqualification. (07-08-93)

-Robert Edelhauser

SALZBURG-Wrestling World Superstars at the icesporthall: Dallas Page pinned Sunny Beach ... S.D. Jones & Cheetah Kid defeated Cuban Assassin & Col. DeBeers ... Koko B. Ware pinned Johnny Rotten ... Demolition Ax pinned Lanny Poffo ... Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka pinned Iran Sheik ... Jake Roberts beat Rick Martel by disqualification. (06-15-93)

-Robert Edihauser

CANADA

MONTREAL, QUEBEC-WWF at The Forum: Papa Shango beat Tito Santana ... The Kid defeated Terry Taylor ... Marty Jannetty beat Blake Beverly ... Doink defeated Virgil ... Tatanka beat Razor Ramon ... World tag team champions Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Money Inc. ... World champion Yokozuna beat Hacksaw Duggan. (07-10-93)

-Bertrand Herbert

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA-Independent card: Caveman Broda beat El Diablo ... Moondog & Ghost Rider defeated Super Medico II & Vance the Kid ... Jason the Terrible beat Bobby Jay ... Team USA defeated Scott Snyder & Super Medico 1... Sluggo Smith beat Steve Saxon by countout. (07-08-93)

-Turner Cummings

EDMONTON, ALBERTA-WWF at the Northlands Coliseum: Owen Hart beat Damian Dimento ... Bastion Booger defeated Jim Powers ... Mr. Hughes beat Kamala ... Bret Hart defeated Lex Luger in a lumberjack match ... The Headshrinkers beat The Smokin' Gunns ... Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels defeated Curt Hennig. (07-08-93)

-Marty Raiston

CHILLIWACK, BRITISH COLUMBIA-Canadian Wrestling Alliance at the Arena: Mike Edward wrestled to a draw with Lance Idol ... In a women's coal miner's glove match, Velvet McIntyre & Brenda Two Eagles beat Awesome Annie & Stacev Jackson when McIntyre pinned Annie after hitting her with the glove ... Doby Gillis pinned Pat Brady ... Firefighter Adrian & Johnny Canuck battled to a double- disqualification with The Terminator & Michele Starr. (06-18-93)

-Stuart Kemp

GREAT BRITAIN

KING'S LYNN, ENGLAND-All Star Wrestling at the Corn Exchange: Gary B. Ware beat Billy Joe Justice ... Danny Collins pinned Col. Brody after a flying bodypress ... The Superflys beat Darren Walsh & Frankie Sloan when Jimmy Ocean pinned Walsh ... Giant Haystacks beat Barry Douglas by submission ... Jimmy Ocean won an eight-man rumble by eliminating Col. Brody. (06-12-93)

-John Bultitude

JAPAN

HAKODATE-New Japan at the Gymnasium: Takayuki lizuka defeated Satoru Kojima ... Osamu Kida & Michiyoshi Ohara defeated Paul Diamond & Brad Armstrong ... Akira Nogami & Jushin Liger beat Osamu Nishimura & Samurai Akitoshi Saito, Seiji Aoyagi, Kuniaki Kobayashi, & Shiro Koshinaka beat Norio Honaga, Hiro Saito, Tatsutoshi Goto, & Strong Machine ... Shinya Hashimoto, Masa Chono, & Tatsumi Fujinami beat TNT, Hercules, & Scott Norton. (07-08-93)

-Koichi Yoshizawa

HIROSHIMA-All-Japan Pro Wrestling at the Plaza: Richard Slinger beat Masao Inque ... The Destroyer defeated Takao Ohmori ... Mighty Inque & Yoshinari Ogawa beat Pete Roberts & Kendall Windham ... Mitsuo Momota, Rusher Kimura, & Giant Baba beat Izumida, Haruka Eigen, & Joel Deaton ... Johnny Smith & Johnny Ace beat Chris & Mark Youngblood ... Masanobu Fuchi & Akira Taue beat Tsuyoshi Kikuchi & Satoru Asako ... Toshiaki Kawada beat Jun Akiyama ... Kenta Kobashi & Mitsuharu Misawa beat Big Bossman & Stan Hansen. (07-08-93)

-Koichi Yoshizawa

PUERTO RICO

ARECIBO-World Wrestling Council at the Coliseum: La Ley beat The Black Demon ... Jose Rivera beat El Exotico ... El Brono beat Rico Suave by disqualification ... Ricky Santana fought Invader I to a double-disqualification ... John Savage and Carlos Colon fought to a no-contest ... WWC tag team champions Dusty Wolfe & Mohammed Hussein beat Mike Anthony & Ray Gonzales. (07-10-93)

-Roberto Rodriguez

SANTA ISABEL-World Wrestling Council at the ballpark: Universal champion Carlos Colon battled Abdullah The Butcher to a double-disqualification ... Dusty Wolfe and Jose-Luis Rivera battled to a 20-minute draw ... Ray Gonzales and Mike Anthony was ruled no-contest when Ricky Santana attacked Gonzales ... The Invader beat Slammer ... La Ley defeated Jammer ... El Bronco beat Mohammed Hussein by disqualification when Hussein threw fire. (06-26-93)

-Brett Wolfe

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY **SEPTEMBER**

NEW YORK

NEW YORK-At Madison Square Garden: George Calza and George Zaharias battled to a 20-minute draw ... Jim McMillan pinned Abe Goldberg ... Al Bisignano (substituting for Sammy Stein) defeated Mayes McLain ... Salvatore Belbo and Maurice LaChappelle fought to a draw ... Count Von Zuppe pinned Baron Karl Von Hoffman ... New disputed world heavyweight champion Dean Detton pinned Dr. Harry Fields in 13:36. The match came a day after Detton had won the belt in Philadelphia by beating Dave Levin. (09-29-36)

-Lewis Burton

TEXAS

HOUSTON-Gulf Wrestling Club at the Coliseum: Gino Hernandez and Tommy Seigler fought to a 15-minute, time-limit draw ... Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka defeated Don Fargo ... Alberto Madril beat Bruce Lankford ... Ox Baker beat Eddy Mansfield Abdullah the Butcher defeated Captain U.S.A. in a best-of-three falls match ... Jose Lothario beat Bull Ramos in a 12-foot pole hair match. (09-02-77)

-Gene Phillips

CANADA

HAMILTON, ONTARIO-At The Forum: Yukon Eric pinned Stan Stasiak ... Tony Marino defeated Bob Leipler by disqualification ... Ray Gordon and Paul Baillargeon battled to a draw ... Lou Thesz beat "Sweet Daddy" Siki by disqualification, as Siki was disqualified for repeatedly blinding Thesz with a foreign substance. (09-18-62)

-Carlton Foster

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off the top rope

(Continued from page 16)

Dear Angel,

I have many feelings. Lately a certain despair colors my mood. I have a tendency to be drawn away from my center by illusory attractions that obstruct my peace of mind. Our energy within, when properly focused, leads to experiences that have more satisfaction than any variety of objects can bring.

Dear Eddie.

I sent this letter to Stu Saks who didn't have the guts to publish it. It's in response to his column in which he wondered why rulebreakers are gaining in popularity. The answers are obvious. Fans today are more knowledgeable about every aspect of the sport, and can appreciate a good effort regardless of the affiliation of the wrestler. Most rulebreakers are very tough, ruthless, and charismatic—in short, very entertaining. Fan favorites tend to be deathly dull, a fact real



When it comes to former WWF World champ Bob Backlund, Ellner has feelings. Not necessarily feelings about Backlund, but feelings nonetheless.

wrestling fans are finally beginning to grasp.

CHARLES F. SHIRK Watertown, NY

Dear Chuckie,

Send an intelligent, well-written letter expressing a contrary opinion to Stu Saks and you should not expect a reply. In the future, those writing to Mr. Saks

should:

- 1. Address the letter, Most Honorable Mr. Saks, Sir,
- 2. Spend the first paragraph describing how brilliant a job he is doing,
- 3. Applaud his wisdom in reducing my role to columns and spot reporting, and
- 4. Repeat his entire column, adding the words "couldn't agree with you more" every fifth sentence.

Dear Eddie,

Why do fans persist in calling Paul Orndorff "Paula"? This ruggedly handsome man is the very essence of masculinity. He makes my pulse race and my heart flutter. Also, how do you think Yokozuna would fare against Big Van Vader?

RITA M. BUDA Chicago

Dear Rita.

Sports fans, with the possible exception of the smug superior followers of Duke University, are not known for their collective intelligence. A derogatory variation

of someone's name is often the best they can do. As for your crush on Mr. Orndorff, I suggest



Why do WCW fans call the rugged Paul Orndorff "Paula"? Just consider their collective intelligence, Ellner says.

a cold shower. In a match pairing the two current world champions, I would give the nod to Vader, who may prove to be the best champion in 20 years, if he is not undermined by lazy management (Harley Race gets bored quickly) and impatient Sid Vicious.



Did Ric Flair give less than his all against Curt Hennig so he could leave the WWF for WCW? According to Ellner, the answer is unquestionably no.



Covering the World of Wrestling



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(Continued from page 7)

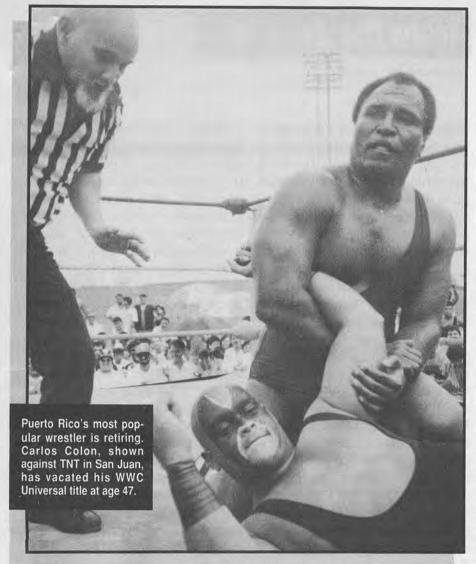
With teams like The Hollywood Blonds, 2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Alexander Bagwell. various Four Horsemen combos. Sting and Davey Boy Smith, and Big Van Vader and Sid Vicious already wreaking havoc, maybe it's time to bring back the U.S. tag team title to give them all a second set of belts to shoot for.

Parity continues to dominate Jerry Lawler country, otherwise known as the USWA. Not only has the USWA heavyweight belt changed hands three times in the last few months, again ending up around the waist of the much-revered Mr. Lawler, but Jeff Jarrett once again possesses the Southern title.

To claim his fifth title, Jarrett defeated nemesis Christopher, whose plan to have his lovely companion, Miss Simpson, toss him a chain from ringside to use on the popular Jarrett backfired.

Danny Davis is also probably





one of Memphis' most popular wrestlers these days—at least with those who like to ride in style. Davis recently won a onenight, 16-man tournament that netted him a 1993 Chevrolet Corvette from a local dealer. Davis defeated **Bo Alexander**, **Rex King**, **Steve Doll**, and Christopher to collect his new set of wheels. Wouldn't a Davis-**Bret Hart** matchup look good right now?

Former no-nonsense principal C.W. Bergstrom and 400-pound nerd Melvin Penrod Jr. captured the USWA tag team belts from New Jack and Homeboy. If Bergstrom and Penrod are seeking a manager,

how about former New Jersey principal Joe Clark? Remember he became famous for carrying a baseball bat around high school hallways. Cornette has his tennis racket and Johnny Polo has his badminton racket (he must have sworn off golf), so why not?

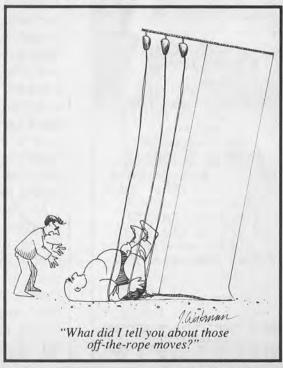
Cracks in The Pack?
Jesse Barr's Championship Wrestling
USA alliance in
Portland may soon be
a thing of the past.
During a recent TV
interview, Barr berated

and slapped Pack member **Bruiser Brian** because he had lost a few matches in previous weeks.

In a later match between Brian and Karl Pope, Brian hesitated in attacking the knee Pope injured when he missed with a flying bodypress. When Barr went to finish Pope himself with a chair, Brian interceded. Push came to shove, and Brian eventually clobbered Barr with the chair and helped Pope back to the locker room. Looks like Paul E. Dangerously isn't the only one with a "dangerous alliance."

In other news, a true class act in the mat sport, WWC Universal champion Carlos Colon, is preparing for his wrestling swan song. At age 47, the man synonymous with wrestling in Puerto Rico has decided to vacate his title and retire after a final series of matches in early-August. Nice to see an athlete going out while he's still on top.

That's all for now. See you at ringside.







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the desk of...

(Continued from page 8)

while maintaining a close bond with the subject matter. Some of our more observant readers might have noticed that we have done some fine-tuning of our initial changes over the past few issues, but before long we will settle into a groove that publishers like to call "reader-friendly."

As far as the content of the magazine, the names that have become synonymous with Pro WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED over the vears are still here. We no longer have the full-time services of some of your favorites, but there is a bright side to that. Without the obligation to report to an office every day, reporters like Chris Bernucca, Andy Rodriguez, Dave Rosenbaum, and Eddie Ellner are free to travel and provide more first-hand in-depth reports on the sport.

To replace some of the staff members who have left, we conducted a thorough search of the top wrestling journalists in the Philadelphia area and were very fortunate to land two top-notch men: V.J. Paterno and Dave Lenker. Both have not only extensive wrestling knowledge. but a tremendous background in sports in general and sports reporting in particular. Already, their presence has been a major plus to the magazines.

As grateful as I am to the contributions of the new staffers, I cannot overlook the importance of the staff veterans who have made the move: Bill Apter, Craig Peters, and Joseph Kalman, I don't even want to think about having had to make the transition without them.

Still, the most important part of the transition is not the people who make the magazines, but the people who read them. Above all else, we must never lose sight of the fact that there are people who have a stake in every decision we make, and our first concern must always be them. It is vitally important, now more than ever, that you maintain the lines of communication with us. Tell us what you think about the new shape of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED or any member of our family of magazines.

Do you like the new designs? Are we making too many changes too quickly? What's on your mind? We need to know.

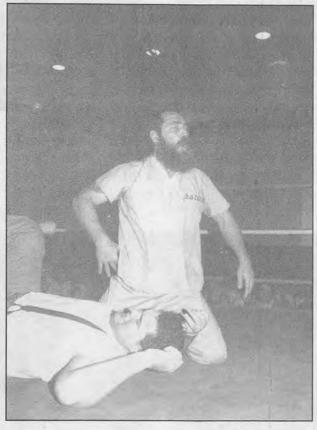
I have received several inquiries regarding the status of the PWI Hall of Fame, an idea I proposed in my May 1993 column.

I received an overwhelming amount of mail from readers volunteering their services to serve on a Hall of Fame selection committee. While I have not written back to those whose ideas I would like to consider, I have by no means trashed the PWI Hall of Fame concept. I believe in it as much now as I did when I penned the column. But I have to admit that I miscalculated in undertaking such a massive project right at the time of our company move.

Until I am ready to devote the time needed to do this right, to speak to the fans, wrestlers, and officials that should be consulted, I am going to have to put it off a bit. We've waited this long for a Hall of Fame, I guess we can wait a little longer.



Sting (above) was number-one in last year's "PWI 500," while Morgus the Maniac (right) came in at number 500. Who will earn this year's top and bottom honors? Find out in our next issue!



Next month's PWI will mark the third edition of the nowfamous "PWI 500." That's the issue in which we take the top wrestlers in the sport today and rank them from number one all the way to number 500, with a mini-bio sketch of each. (Talk about massive projects.)

I recommend not only that you

pick up your copy early (they sell quickly!), but that when you get yours, you don't ever throw it out. The December issue is, with the possible exception of our March year-end issue, the most controversial magazine we publish all year. It's a lot of fun for everybody-except maybe the guy ranked number 501.

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win, lose, or draw

(Continued from page 12)

"I get scared all the time," admits Rick Steamboat. "Everytime I say goodbye to my wife and son, I think about some of the bad things that could happen. One doesn't want to dwell on it, but it is always in the back of your mind, and sometimes in the front of your mind as well."

Steamboat goes on to add that he enjoys many aspects of life on the road, meeting new people and seeing new places. He says he considers himself very fortunate to have had all the experiences he has.

"For a guy to do nothing but whine and complain all the time would be in my mind such a monumental waste of time," he opines. "We're very lucky to have the opportunity to compete in this particular profession. On balance, it's not a bad life."

Speaking for many of his fellow commentators, Gordon Solie said Drysdale's death made him think anew about the life of a traveling broadcaster.

"We wrestling commentators may not travel as frequently as our brethren in other sports," he said, "but we realize the sacrifices inherent in the profession. Did Don fear this would ever happen? Naturally, I can't answer that. Do others of us fear it? Certainly."

Even for the men who are generally considered loners, there often is the loneliness and anxiety of life away from the home base.

"I'm not a very sentimental person," said Rick Rude, "and I don't worry about things over which I have no control. Still, I can get the feeling that I'm somewhere I shouldn't be, that I belong somewhere else instead of a six-man tag match in Podunk. Why that happens I don't know.

"Like I said, I don't obsess over it, but the feeling is there and I won't deny it. And I'll tell you straight: It's a feeling I don't like."

A former cohort of Rude's decid-



Rick Rude is hardly a sentimentalist, but even he acknowledges that he sometimes doesn't like the feeling of being away from home.



Adrian Adonis (left) and Dick Murdoch combined to win the WWF World tag team title. Murdoch still thinks about his partner, who died in an auto accident in 1988.

ed, like the wrestler in Jarrett's story, to give up his career to be nearer his family. However, he adds that he is considering a comeback.

"I think maybe I made too quick a decision," he said. "At the time it seemed like the right thing to do. The kids were very young and I didn't want to miss seeing them grow up. More importantly, I didn't want them to get the news from a thousand miles away that Daddy had an accident. That was five years ago; I feel differently now.

"I feel like I denied myself something I really enjoyed doing and at which I was damned good. It's true when athletes say those competitive juices never stop flowing. If I don't make the decision to return soon, I'll blow my chance and I'll have to live with that forever. I honestly feel I can still win championships in this sport. I truly want my family to support me if I do go back, but I may do it even if they don't."

Dick Murdoch sympathizes, but plods on. This rugged, ring-tough veteran is known for his blustery bravado, but he grows introspective when he talks about his former WWF World tag team championship partner, Adrian Adonis, who was killed in an automobile wreck in Canada in 1988.

"Yeah, when something like that happens, you think about all the people you've known in this sport and all the partnerships you formed," Murdoch recollected. "I hadn't really seen much of Adrian in the last few years of his life, but the man and I were champions of the world so we had that bond. He could be a tough, mean SOB, but he always softened up when he talked about his family. On the road you spend a lot of time with a partner and you tend to learn a lot about his personal life. When I heard that he'd passed, my heart really went out to the family. You can't help but think, There but for the grace of God. There but for the grace of God."

Those of us who cover this sport tend toward generalizations. We can write about fan favorites as though they are saints, and call rulebreakers "animals" and "monsters." We often seem to forget that they simply are just like the rest of us. They are human.

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OCTOBER 5

DON'T MISS IT!

between falls

(Continued from page 5)

Arn Anderson, and Barry Windham, there's no need for such nonsense. WCW used to be the paragon of wrestling action. Now it's no better than a bad imitation of McMahon's circus. My fellow wrestling fans: Let's get WCW back to where it rightfully belongs. Write letters and let WCW know!

JOE TISONE Canon City, CO

SOUTHERN HERO

In a sport of overblown egos, Tracey Smothers is one of the few underrated athletes in wrestling today. After splitting up with tag team partner Steve Armstrong, Smothers moved on to the Smoky Mountain area where he immediately captured the federation's TV title. Since then, Tracey has gone on to defeat Tony Anthony for the Smoky Mountain heavyweight title. Also, Tracey was given the respect he deserves and was recently ranked in Pro Wrestling



Smoky Mountain champion Tracey Smothers is saluted by reader Stan R. Lenkiewicz. He refers to Smothers as one of wrestling's most underrated stars. ILLUSTRATED'S Top Ten. Smothers has followed in the path of Bobby Eaton, and has proven to be successful in both singles and tag team ranks. Tracey can defend the Smoky Mountain belt with pride.

STAN R. LENKIEWICZ Paramus, NJ

MISSING MISTY

I really enjoyed "The Steel Cage" column on women's wrestling in the July 1993 issue. I, too, would like to see the ladies on some of the



The July 1993 "Steel Cage" column favoring a revival of women's wrestling earned the approval of Karl Chambers, who particularly misses the beautiful and skilled Misty Blue Simmes, shown lifting Linda Dallas in a 1987 match.

major promotions' shows. I miss the class, action, and beauty the women brought to the matches. As an old fan of the LPWA, I viewed with sadness the apparent demise of that circuit. My favorite was Misty Blue. She was skilled, athletic, entertaining, and very attractive. It would be nice to see her in WCW, or in the WWF, where Sensational Sherri and Luna Vachon have been feuding. Either one would make a great match for Misty.

KARL CHAMBERS Lansing, IL□

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10 rulebreakers

(Continued from page 34)



Jerry Lawler. "The King' a rulebreaker?" USWA partisans might ask? Lawler was recently restored to that federation's throne after brief occupations by pretenders Papa Shango and Owen Hart. In Memphis, Lawler's considered a genuine local hero; in the WWF, a bit of a bigmouth. He earned the latter reputation after attacking Bret Hart following the "King Of The Ring" tournament. Lawler might not get a title shot because he's ruffled so many WWF feathers, and may not be big enough to upset Yokozuna, but "The King" is as crafty as ever, and could make things interesting.

The wily Jerry Lawler might give Yokozuna a better match than you think. That is, assuming the WWF ignores Lawler's vendetta against the federation.

Shawn Michaels. Other than a three-week period following his loss to an emotionally charged Marty Jannetty, the "Boy Toy" has maintained a chokehold on the Intercontinental title since last October 27, when he won the belt from Smith. Michaels is regarded as one of the federation's top technical wrestlers. He is in a class with Bret Hart, who gave Yokozuna fits with his scientific skills at WrestleMania IX. Michaels has shown that he not only knows how to win titles, he knows how to defend them. One could argue that on performance alone, he should be the first rulebreaker to receive a title shot.



Based on performance and skills, Intercontinental champ Shawn Michaels warrants the first shot at Yokozuna's title.



Irwin R. Schyster's technical ability is excellent. However, he'd likely lack the toughness and stamina to withstand Yokozuna's punishment.

Irwin R. Schyster. The rumor mill says that Money Inc. won't be a team for much longer, and a breakup may be best for Schyster, who has had incredible success as both a singles and tag team competitor. Formerly Mike Rotundo, the taxman from Syracuse has won WWF tag titles with both DiBiase and Barry Windham, and was twice TV champion in the old NWA. He is an excellent scientific wrestler with an amateur background comparable to the Steiners. However, his threshold for pain and punishment is not that high. While Schyster's technical skills could present problems for Yokozuna, he would need to develop an effective submission hold in order to beat him.

How would Yokozuna meet the challenge of voodoo? That's what the Samoan would face if former USWA champ Papa Shango ever got a WWF title shot.

Papa Shango. The voodoo master recently lost the USWA heavyweight title, but by winning it he proved himself capable of succeeding in big-match situations. Remember, when Shango first entered the WWF in March 1992, he was a phenomenon that many fan favorites could not figure out. He has never employed any of his strange strategy on fellow rulebreakers (the USWA Lawler doesn't count). With a title under his belt, this big man (340 pounds) may now have the confidence he lacked in the past. Again, this should be a one-shot deal.



BACK ISSUES OF



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November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper, Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. Jimmy Vallant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen, Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair,

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack, Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund,

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuke, Warriors, Gordy, Flair,

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. Magnum T.A, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. Randy Savage, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

Aug 1986

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry. June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. Ted DiBlase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin: Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beelcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. Four Horsemen, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth, Warriors, Sting. February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts, Luger, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von. Beefcake-Bass.

April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner. Savage, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Hogan vs. Savage, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

July 1989/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. Steamboat, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

August 1989/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger, Hogan, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

October 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Rude: Luger vs. Hogan, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

November 1989/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. Rhodes, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

December 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jimmy Snuka, Luger, Vicious, Muta, Sting, Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn. January 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sid Vicious. Ultimate, Cornette, Ross, Kerry. February 1990/COLOR PINUP: Bret Hart.

Lex Luger, Hogan, Hennig-Beetcake, Toni Adams, Woman. April 1990/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. Ric Flair, Hennig vs. Hogan,

Sting, Rockers, Lawler.

May 1990/COLOR PINUP: The Great
Muta. Hulk Hogan, Skyscrapers, R&R Ex-

June 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sting, Hogan vs. Warrior, R&R Express, Rhodes vs.

Savage, Arn vs. Sawyer.

July 1990/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel.

Lex Luger, Beefcake, Skyscrapers,

Heenan, Saito, referees.

Heenan, Saito, referees.

September 1990/PINUP; Rick & Scott Steiner. COLC R FEATURES: Hogan,

Sting, Horsemen, Hennig.
October 1990/PINUP: Brutus Beefcake.
COLOR FEATURES: Sting, Tugboat, Ultimate, Long, Blanchard-Orndorff.

November 1990/PINUP: Legion of Doom. COLOR FEATURES: Sting beats Flair, Rude-Warrior.

December 1990/PINUP: Sting. COLOR FEATURES: Legion of Doom, Kerry, Slaughter, Doom, Horsemen. January 1991/PINUP: Kerry Von Erich. COLOR FEATURES: WWF vs. NWA, Hogan, Hansen, Sling, Sherri. February 1991/PINUP: 1991 calendar. COLOR FEATURES: Scott Steiner, Vicious vs. Luger, Rhodes vs. DiBiase. April 1991/PINUP: Tom Zenk. COLOR FEATURES: Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan & Warrior, Magnum T.A., Lawler-Gilbert. May 1991/PINUP: Arn Anderson. COLOR FEATURES: Hogan, Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.

June 1991/PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. COLOR FEATURES: Hogan, Doom, Horsemen, Steiner.

July 1991/PINUP: Brian Pillman, COLOR FEATURES: Hogan, Luger, Demolition, Embry, Horsemen-Vicious.

October 1991/PINUP: Lex Luger, COL-OR FEATURES: Justice, Hogan-Slaughter, Windham, Williams,

November 1991/PINUP: Bobby Eaton, COLOR FEATURES: Savage & Elizabeth, Bushwhackers, Liger, Pillman. December 1991/PINUP: Rick Steamboat. COLOR FEATURES: PWI 500, Simmons, Badd, Hogan-Flair.

January 1992/PINUP: Ron Simmons. COLOR FEATURES: Flair, R. Steiner, Ultimate, Luger.

February 1992/PINUP: 1992 calendar. COLOR FEATURES: Hogan, Gilbert, Roberts-Justice, hot prospects.

April 1992/PINUP: Ric Flair. COLOR FEATURES: Sting-Luger, Rockers, WWF Violence, Dangerous Alliance.

May 1992/PINUP: Rick Rude. COLOR

May 1992/PINUP: Rick Rude. COLOR FEATURES: Hogan, Sting & Muta vs. Steiners, Savage-Roberts.

June 1992/PINUP: Dustin Rhodes, COL-OR FEATURES: Piper interview, Abdullah-Cactus, Flair-Savage, Justice. July 1992/PINUP: Randy Savage, COL-OR FEATURES: Best of the Best, Flair,

U.S.-Japan, Savage.

September 1992/PINUP: Nikita Koloff.
FEATURES: Justice, Sting-Savage, Backlund, Steiners, Michaels.

October 1992/PINUP: Cactus Jack. FEA-TURES: Savage vs. Warrior, Embry-Moondogs, Z-Man, Japan fire match. November 1992/PINUP: The Ultimate Warrior. FEATURES: British Buildog, Undertaker, Steiners, Honky Tonk Man

December 1992/PINUP: Big Van Vader. FEATURES: PWI 500, Bossman-Nailz, Watt & WCW rules, Justice interview. January 1993/PINUP: Jeff Jarrett. FEATURES: Flair/SummerSlam, Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich Interview.

February 1993/PINUP: Curt Hennig, FEA-TURES: Ramon, Snuka-Muraco, Rude, Rhodes, Roberts interview.

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Doink The Clown

(Continued from page 31)

what shaky conclusion: Doink's behavior is the result of some Perhaps this incident taught the young Doink that clowns are not all they are made out to be.

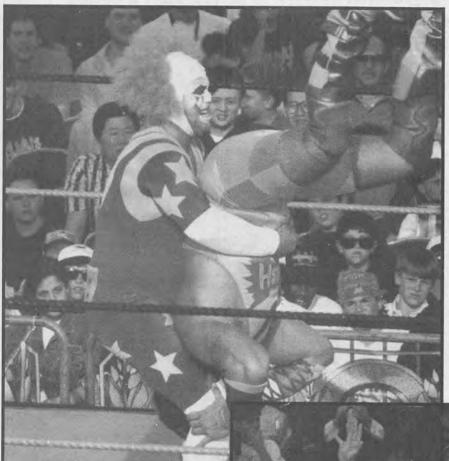
Of course, we often have unrealistic views of people in all walks of life, and are disappoint-

ed when those views turn out to be untrue. Perhaps the young Doink saw a clown engaged in an argument with a carnival barker or promoter, or maybe he was snubbed by a clown. Unlikely, but possible.

There are other explanations that can account for Doink's obvious personality disorder. There is reason to believe he suffers from the "middle child syndrome" and is rebelling against his parents by punishing all children. Perhaps there was a time when young Doink's parents took his brothers to the circus and left him home.

There is nearly a 100 percent probability that Doink had a difficult childhood and is merely punishing seemingly happy children, those who have more than

Once there was a saying, "Everybody loves a clown." It's no longer true, as Doink's villainous antics have struck fear in the hearts of children and wrath in the minds of their parents.



It's entirely possible that Crush is paying the price for a psychological affront committed against Doink during the clown's childhood, according to psychologist Dr. Sidney M. Basil.

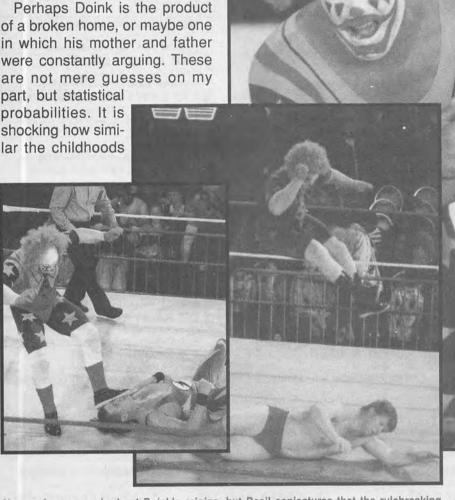
traumatic childhood event that

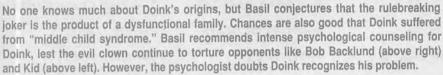
Although the vast majority of fans despise Doink and his tactics, most grudgingly concede the man beneath the paint is a skilled wrestler. Here the clown takes on the Lightning (now 1-2-3) Kid.

he ever did. Of all the possessions in the world, the most valuable is a happy childhood. It is the basis from which all our personalities are formed, the source of our strongest pleasant and unpleasant memories.

Perhaps Doink is the product of a broken home, or maybe one in which his mother and father were constantly arguing. These

probabilities. It is shocking how similar the childhoods





are of adults with personality disorders. Rarely do troubled adults come from "normal" upbringings.

So Doink dresses in the disguise of good and horrifies children by having one of their supposed friends turn against them. For all the damage perpetrated by Doink against the various WWF fan favorites, the victims he has bruised the most are those innocent, scared children at ringside.

I offer one warning from my vears of experience with such people: He might change for a while, but not forever. Only with intense psychological counseling can Doink overcome the traumas of his childhood and function as a normal adult. Unfortunately, he doesn't seem to have recognized his problem.

Too bad. This being the case, parents can only hope for the best and guard their children from the sight of this sick individual.

USTRAT

PWI's Top 10



Sting

TOP 10

RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN (-) NWA champion

YOKOZUNA

550, Samoa

(-) WWF World champion

BRET HART

235, Calgary, Alberta (-) No. 2 contender: WWF title

BIG VAN VADER

450, Denver, CO

(1) WCW World champion

5 SHAWN MICHAELS

220, San Antonio, TX

(7) WWF Intercontinental champion RICK RUDE

246, Robbinsdale, MN

(-) No. 1 contender: WCW U.S. title

CURT HENNIG

235, Minneapolis, MN

(8) No. 1 contender: WWF Intercentinental title

DAVEY BOY SMITH

245, Leeds, England (3) No. 5 contender: WCW World title

STING

260, Venice Beach, CA

(6) No. 6 contender: WCW World title

JOHNNY B. BADD

235, Macon, GA

(-) No. 1 contender: WCW TV title

TAG TEAMS

THE HOLLYWOOD BLONDS

Combined weight: 467 pounds
(1) WCW World tag team champions

RICK & SCOTT STEINER

Combined weight: 483 pounds
(10) WWF World tag team champions

ARN ANDERSON & PAUL ROMA

Combined weight: 484 pounds

(-) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

4 MONEY INC.

Combined weight: 492 pounds

(5) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

5 STING & DAVEY BOY SMITH

Combined weight: 505 pounds

(-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

BIG VAN VADER & SID VICIOUS

Combined weight: 768 pounds

(-) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

7 THE BRUISE BROTHERS Combined weight: 583 pounds

(-) Smoky Mountain tag team champions

2 COLD SCORPIO & MARCUS BAGWELL

Combined weight: 460 pounds

(4) No. 4 contenders: WCW World tag title

THE NASTY BOYS

Combined weight: 585 pounds

(-) No. 5 contenders: WCW World tag title

10 THE SMOKIN' GUNNS

Combined weight: 454 pounds

(-) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

WCW **World Champion: BIG VAN VADER** (C) 450, Denver, CO

1-RIC FLAIR

(-) 243, Minneapolis, MN

-RICK RUDE (5) 246, Robbinsdale, MN **3—DUSTIN RHODES**

(2) 254, Austin, TX -JOHNNY B. BADD

(-) 235, Macon, GA 5-DAVEY BOY SMITH

(3) 245, Leeds, England -STING

(4) 260, Venice Beach, CA

7—RICK STEAMBOAT (10) 238, Honolulu, HI

8—PAUL ORNDORFF (-) 253, Brandon, FL

9—RON SIMMONS (-) 260, Perry, GA

10-STEVE REGAL (-) 247, Blackpool, England

WWF **World Champion:** YOKOZUNA

(C) 550, Samoa

1-SHAWN MICHAELS (5) 220, San Antonio, TX

BRET HART (4) 235, Calgary, Alberta

-LEX LUGER (2) 290, Chicago, IL

-RAZOR RAMON

(-) 291, Minneapolis, MN 5—THE UNDERTAKER

(-) 320, parts unknown **CURT HENNIG** (3) 235, Minneapolis, MN

7-HACKSAW DUGGAN (-) 280, Glens Falls, NY

-THE KID (8) 201, Tampa, FL

9—TATANKA (7) 260, Miami, FL

10—JERRY LAWLER (-) 234, Memphis, TN

GLOBAL

North American Champion: USWA Champion: ROD PRICE

(C) 265, Los Angeles, CA

1-CHRIS ADAMS (4) 228, Stratford, England

2—ICEMAN PARSONS (5) 245, St. Louis, Mo

ANGEL OF DEATH (1) 310, Los Angeles, CA

-BLACK BART (7) 261, Pampa, TX

-KILLER BROOKS (9) 254, Waxahachie, TX

-CAPTAIN RON (-) 265, Dallas, TX

7-AL PEREZ (-) 239, Tampa, FL

8—JOHN TATUM (-) 236, Hollywood, CA

9—KENDO NAGASAKI (-) 248, Singapore 10-JOHN HAWK

(3) 280, Sweetwater, TX

USWA

JERRY LAWLER

(C) 234, Memphis, TN

1—VAMPIRE WARRIOR (-) 234, parts unknown

2—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER (2) 230, Memphis, TN

3—JEFF JARRETT (3) 220, Hendersonville, TN

-OWEN HART (-) 223, Calgary, Alberta

5-DAN DAVIS (8) 218, Nashville, TN

6—JEFF GAYLORD (5) 280, St. Louis, Mo

-C.W. BERGSTROM (-) 268, Portland, OR

8—COLIN SCOTTS (-) 249, Sydney, Australia

9-TONY FALK (-) 237, Memphis, TN

10—PAUL NEIGHBORS

(-) 231, Memphis, TN

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

I LEX LUGER 290, Chicago, IL

Last Issue: No. 3 Most Hated

STING

260, Venice Beach, CA Last Issue: No. 4 Most Popular

CURT HENNIG

235, Minneapolis, MN Last Issue: No. 8 Most Popular

4 RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN Last Issue: unrated

RANDY SAVAGE

245, Sarasota, FL Last issue: unrated

TATANKA

260, Miami, FL Last issue: unrated

7 DUSTIN RHODES

254, Austin, TX

Last Issue: No. 6 Most Popular

THE KID

201, Tampa, FL

Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

9 JEFF JARRETT

220, Hendersonville, TN Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

10 RICK STEAMBOAT

238, Honolulu, HI

Last Issue: unrated

MOST HATED

YOKOZUNA

550, Samoa Last Issue: No. 2 Most Hated

BIG VAN VADER

450, Denver, CO

Last Issue: No. 1 Most Hated

SHAWN MICHAELS

220, San Antonio, TX Last issue: unrated

RICK RUDE

246, Robbinsdale, MN Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated

MAXX PAYNE

350, Iowa City, IA

Last issue: unrated

MR. HUGHES

308, Kansas City, KS Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated

SID VICIOUS

318, West Memphis, AR

Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

BRIAN LEE

251, Los Angeles, CA

Last issue: unrated

BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

230, Memphis, TN

Last issue: unrated

JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

Last issue: unrated

For period ended July 21, 1993

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1-BRET HART74	points
2-BIG VAN VADER63	
3-SHAWN MICHAELS48	
4—STING39	
5—RICK RUDE	No. In Consultation

TAG TEAMS

1-MONEY INC77	points
2—THE HOLLYWOOD BLONDS58	
3-RICK STEAMBOAT & SHANE DOUGLAS57	points
4-RICK & SCOTT STEINER47	points
5-THE HEADSHRINKERS39	points

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion: IWCCW Champion: **BRIAN LEE**

(C) 251, Los Angeles, CA

1-TONY ANTHONY (2) 235, Bucksnort, TN

-TRACEY SMOTHERS (1) 227, Atlanta, GA

3-TIM HORNER (5) 235, Morristown, TN

CHRIS CANDIDO

(10) 226, Carteret, NJ -TOM PRICHARD (8) 220, Houston, TX

SCOTT ARMSTRONG (-) 212, Marietta, GA

-STEVE ARMSTRONG (-) 224, Marietta, GA

KILLER KYLE (4) 303, Atlanta, GA

-JIM DEL RAY (-) 234, Kingsport, TN

10-BOBBY BLAZE (-) 231, Ashland ,KY

IWCCW

TITLE VACANT

(C) To be determined in tourney

1-GREG VALENTINE (1) 243, Seattle, WA

-HERCULES

(2) 255, Tampa, FL

3-KOKO B. WARE (3) 229, Union City, TN

TONY ATLAS (4) 247, Roanoke, VA

-JOE SAVOLDI (5) 220, Parsippany, NJ

KENDALL WINDHAM (7) 220, Sweetwater, TX

LANCE VON ERICH (6) 260, Arlington, TX

TASMANIAC (8) 232, Tasmania

9-JOHNNY WILDSIDE (10) 285, parts unknown

10-TOMMY DREAMER (9) 245, Yonkers, NY

BIG D: Big D Champion—Bill Irwin; 1—Big D; 2—Steven Dane; 3—Terry Simms; 4—Calvin Knapp; 5—Guido Falcone; 6—Action Jackson; 7—Scott Braddock; 8—Mr. Mister; 9-Billy Travis; 10-John Hawk.

ECW: ECW Champion—Don Muraco; 1—Jimmy Snuka; 2—Terry Funk; 3—Hawk; 4—Eddie Gilbert; 5—Stan Hansen; 6—The Sandman; 7—Salvatore Bellomo; 8— Johnny Hot Body; 9-Abdullah the Butcher; 10-Dark Patriot.

ICWA: ICWA Champion—Frankie Rose; 1—Jeff Bradley; 2—Top Gun Assassin; 3— Bill Payne; 4—Verne Henderson; 5—Lord Of Discipline; 6—Rico Fredrico; 7—Jumbo Barretta; 8-Ned Brady; 9-Billy Mack; 10-Gary Nice.

PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; 1—Charlie Norris; 2—Tommy Ferrara; 3—Billy Blaze; 4—Rocky Rice; 5—Masked Jungle Fighter; 6—Horace the Psychopath; 7—Brad Rheingans; 8—El Torro; 9—Man of the '90s; 10—J.B. Trask.

PWF: PWF Champion—Italian Stallion; 1—George South; 2—Terry Austin; 3—Cruel Connection II; 4—Scotty McKeever; 5—Flaming Youth; 6—Russian Assassin I; 7—Star Ryder; 8—Killdozer; 9—Super Brat; 10—Scotty Hot Body.

USA: USA TV Champion—Col. DeBeers; 1—Jimmy Snuka; 2—Jesse Barr; 3— Ryuma Go; 4—Bruiser Brian; 5—Lou Andrews; 6—Sumito; 7—Dirty White Boy; 8— Karl Pope; 9-Dane Rush; 10-Silver Shadow.

WWA: WWA Champion—The Spider; 1—Chris Evans; 2—Shasheem; 3—Ed the Razor; 4—Bobby Salsa; 5—Chris Candido; 6—Boy Gone Bad; 7—Barry Hardy; 8— Duane Gill; 9—Scott Vida; 10—Abbuda Singh.

WWC: WWC Universal Champion—Title Vacant; 1—Invader I; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Carlos Colon; 4—Ricky Santana; 5—Ray Gonzales; 6—Abdullah the Butcher; 7— The Barbarian; 8—John Savage; 9—El Bronco; 10—La Ley.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Some second thoughts on NWA. In the September 1993 issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, readers said they believed the NWA should be recognized as a world title, alongside WCW and the WWF. Two later letters vehemently

disagreed.



Ric Flair

WCW is the real NWA, stated John Courville of Lyme, New Hampshire. The line of title changes is there and was never broken when the NWA became WCW. The current NWA is the new kid on the block, and is just a subdivision of WCW. The old belts may be back, but this is a whole new ballgame. The actual belt Ric Flair lost may now

be around Barry Windham's waist, but the legacy is around Big Van Vader's.

Robert A. Sforza of Oakdale, Pennsylvania, agreed. One federation is simply too small for two world championships. I feel that the value of both the NWA and WCW titles is diminished by having them both in one organization.

Both Courville and Sforza would like to see the IWGP in Japan receive world title status.

Where there's smoke... We asked readers in the August PWI whether Smoky Mountain Wrestling should receive major-federation status. Ty Whitney of Marathon, New York, wants to see how SMW fares in the long run, saying it hasn't been around long enough to determine its staying power. Remember that, a year ago, this same debate was started over Global, Whitney said. Everyone was lauding Global as the third-best wrestling alliance and wanted to bestow major-league status on them. Now look at the Global federation just a year later; they are a disappointment to us all.

On the other hand, Tobin Shea of Warren, Pennsylvania, is an avid Global fan. Every federation goes through dry spells of talent, he said. The thing that makes a federation great is its ability to come out of these dry spells and have great matches with great wrestlers.

Shea added he believed Global was superior to Smoky Mountain. Chris Adams would kill Tony Anthony, and Rod

Price—one of the best up-and-coming wrestlers—would probably beat Tim Horner.

The Dallas-based Global has been through rough times of late, but things may be looking up. ESPN—which has telecast Global cards in recent years—is beginning a second cable channel this fall, programmed toward a younger audience. ESPN2 is reportedly negotiating with Global for weekly prime-time matches.

Change for the sake of ratings. Chris Kacvinsky of Parma, Ohio, would like to see several changes in the ratings. First, he suggests ECW be moved to the main ratings and IWCCW shifted to the agate. ECW has a champion, and stars like Eddie and Doug Gilbert, Hawk, Terry Funk, Jimmy Snuka, and Don Muraco. On the other hand, IWCCW has not had a champion in years. The talent there is not as good as ECW. They just don't deserve to be there any longer.

Shawn Marek of Cheektowaga, New York, is also upset at IWCCW. I think you guys should strip IWCCW of title recognition, since they haven't had a champ since who

knows when, Marek said. A better idea would be to put ECW or Japan ratings in its space. I sure hope you get my point and realize the problem.



Chris Adams

Kacvinsky would also like PWI to initiate a new column. Cut the Most Popular and Most Hated categories to five each rather than 10. In the added space, create an overall international Top 10, like you used to have an overall

women's category. With both the WWF and WCW being more open with Japan and doing tremendous business in Europe, wrestling certainly has gone global and PWI should, too.

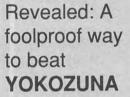
We appreciate your input. Where do you stand on the NWA? IWGP? Smoky Mountain? Global? ECW? IWCCW? Tell us how you feel about your favorite—or least favorite—federation. Drop us a line at: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

this month in...

Wrestler



RIC FLAIR is back: We measure his chances for success





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All this—and much more...in the October
1993 issue of The Wrestler



WRÉSTLE America



LEX-CELLENT! LUGER (Summer)Slams his way into America's heart

The 20 people who hate JIM CORNETTE the most... and why



PLUS...

RIC FLAIR vs. BIG VAN VADER: Who's the man?...RANDY SAVAGE is hungry for another world title...STING & SID VICIOUS: Two ships that crash in the night...Exclusive action photographs from around the WWF and WCW!

All this—and much more...in the October 1993 issue of Wrestle America



V R SS I L

LAWLER REGAINS USWA TITLE... AGAIN!

Owen Hart In Controversial Bout "The King" Gets Revenge On

By DAVE ROSENBAUM

where he goes, and it was no different in this MEMPHIS, TN-For the 15th time, Jerry "The King" Lawler strapped the USWA heavyweight title around his waist, as he ended the two-week reign of WWF interloper "The Rocket" Owen Hart. Controversy seems to follow Lawler every-

With referee Frank Morell knocked out, Hart Neighbors charged the ring and made a threeberated Neighbors for his poor judgment, and went to pin Lawler. Substitute official Paul count on "The King." However, Morell recovered, ordered the match continued.

After the referees briefly came to blows, Lawler



Jerry Lawler won the USWA belt for the 15th time since the federation's inception. He defeated Owen Hart.

eventually got up and rolled Hart up for the pin, with Morell making the three-count.

"I don't think this war is near over," said one ringside fan. "I'm not sure what this will do to Jerry's popularity here, but I'm sure he hasn't seen the last of the Hart family. It's a real dangerous sit-

Lawler, the first time during a Lawler-Neighbors en on the steps near the dressing room-his way of paying back "The King" for a similar beating he gave older brother Bret after he'd won the WWF's The Owen Hart-Lawler feud began two weeks earlier, on the night Hart defeated Papa Shango for the USWA belt. Twice "The Rocket" battled match, the second later in the evening near the locker room. The second time he left Lawler beat-

At press time it seemed likely that Bret Hart would face Lawler at the WWF's SummerSlam event on August 30 in Auburn Hills, Michigan. "King Of The Ring" tournament.



Bret Hart from attacks by WWF World Newly patriotic Lex Luger has turned humanitarian as well, rescuing former foe champ Yokozuna and Mr. Fuji.

Luger To Bret's Aid

By BILL APTER

quickly times change. Not only has Lex Luger become the WWF's most popular wrestler, he is also helping out for-WILKES-BARRE, mer foe Bret Hart.

On several occasions recently, the Yokozuna and Mr. Fuji. Luger has been "Hitman" has been the victim of double-teaming by WWF World champ storming into the ring and sending the assailants fleeing. Only a few weeks earlier, Luger and Hart had battled one another in some intense matches.

"Bret knows a thing or two about loyalty," said Stu Hart, Bret's father. "He knows that friendships and alliances come and go. I'm not saying he and Bret won't become friends, but my son needs time."

several shots, and Luger recently challenged Yokozuna. Hart was snubbed Also, both men are seeking the WWF World title. Hart has received when Hulk Hogan refused to give him a title shot before losing to Yokozuna.

Van Hammer On Comeback Trail By CHRIS BERNUCCA

ORLANDO, FL-For most people a trip to Disney World means sunshine, Mickey Mouse, and some wild rides. For Van Hammer, it's about hard work.

in' roller since he was embarrassed and power-bombed by Sid Vicious in a Little has been heard from the rock match lasting just 35 seconds at Slamboree '93.

tent and disappear after that," Van Hammer said after one workout. "I admit I was down, but I just decided to "People expected me to fold up my take it as a learning experience."

Van Hammer was touted by many as After his loss to Vicious, he watched a serious contender to Barry Windham's NWA title until Slamboree. crowd of his fans jump off the band-

"People can forget the Sid match," Hammer said. "I'm not saying that I'm better than him, but I'm capable of win-

ning a title. That's all I'm pushing for. I promise the fans I'll win a title very



Van Hammer struck some sour notes in his 35-second loss to Sid Vicious last May. He vows to learn from that experience.

Cornette Foils Armstrong Again By MATT BROCK

least favorite manager is making quite a MORRISTOWN, TN-Everyone's racket yet another time. Jim Cornette Armstrong when he once again gave ruined the managerial debut of Bob him a beating with his trusty tennis

Mountain commissioner several months ago after Cornette and the Heavenly Bodies attacked and humiliated him after he had served as special referee Armstrong had resigned as Smoky for a cage match. Armstrong recently

applied for a wrestling license, but at press time was concentrating on guiding the careers of sons Scott and Steve. "I warned him to stay out of my way," said Cornette. "He's like a stupid old dog that just keeps coming back. When will he learn?"

"You can tell Cornette he hasn't "People don't need to worry about me. I've been around long enough to know seen the last of me," said Armstrong. what I'm doing. I'll always come back until I do what I need to do."

might soon reunite only figures to grow tling furiously for several weeks during relling people that me and Animal have 'm ready to give up my singles career?" now that Hawk no longer wears a title title to Rambo. The two had been batwhen we're ready. Besides, who says Speculation that The Road Warriors lost the Catch Wrestling Association talked about getting together, and it'll belt around his waist. Hawk recently the CWA's tour of Europe. "I keep probably happen sometime, but only

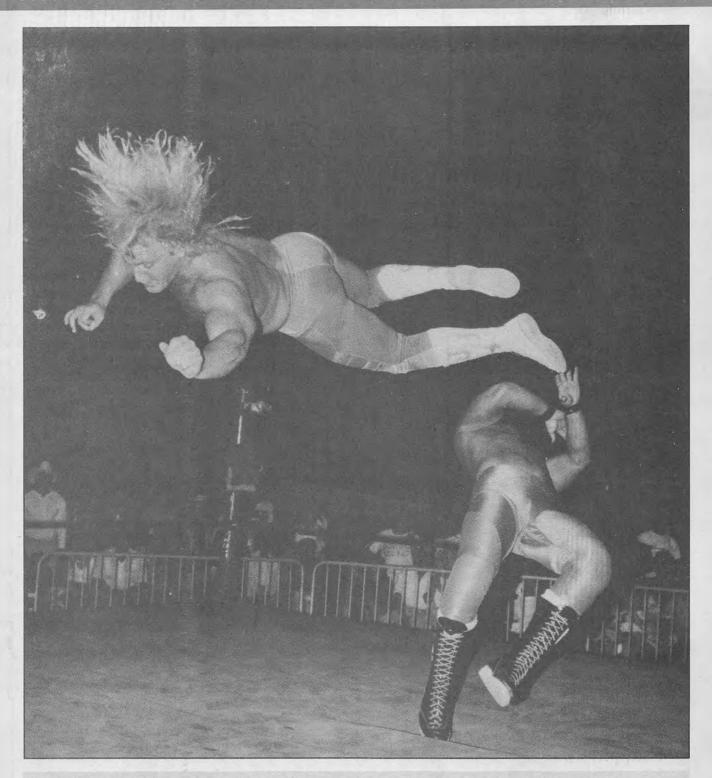
Hulk Hogan recently said the IWGP title was like a Rolls-Royce compared to the prestigious the IWGP belt is to Oriental itle in a match against ring veteran The Honda. A recent card showed just how grapplers. The Great Muta retained his the same evening, The Hellraisers also cept the IWGP tag team title by defeatthat Muta won by disqualification. On Great Kabuki in a bloodbath of a bout WWF World belt, which was like a ing Earthquake and King Haku

AMMAN, JORDAN

entative plans to tour Jordan during the late-summer or early-fall. Negotiations independent stars in person. "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka and Metal Maniac have Middle East fans may soon see some independent wrestlers. One rumor has are also underway with several other Snuka's longtime enemy and current

Dangerous Alliance Magnificent Muraco partner signing on.

HOT SHOT



When longtime Memphis rivals Jeff Jarrett and Brian Christopher do battle, the hair really flies—and we mean that literally! The blond USWA fan favorite lets the public see virtually every strand in his flowing mane while letting loose a tremendous flying dropkick at the reeling Christopher. Jarrett recently gained his fifth Southern title, though he needed some help. Christopher (aided by Nanny Simpson) tried to bring a chain into the ring. However, special referee Jackie Fargo realized what was happening and disallowed the rulebreaking move, and Jarrett was soon able to achieve the pin and take home the belt.



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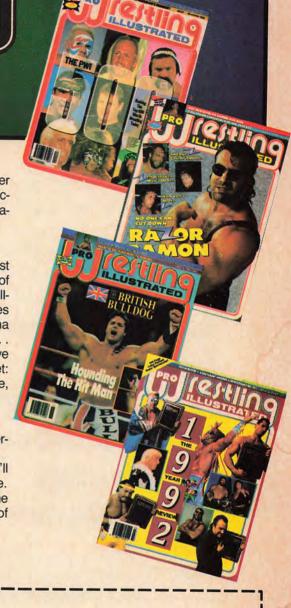
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